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THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY QUESTION.

It is seldom that public opinion in regard to a great Parliamentary measure changes so completely between the first and second reading as it has changed in the case of the ministerial measure dealing with the University question in Ireland. There is substantial truth in the assertion of Mr. Fawcett on Monday night that, if the opinion of the House of Commons on the bill had been asked at the close of Mr. Gladstone's speech in introducing it, there would have been an almost unanimous opinion in favour of the second reading; whereas now it has become a matter of some speculation whether the measure will even pass that stage, and still greater doubt exists as to the manner in which the question will be ultimately disposed of.

This is not attributable to public fickleness, nor can it be wholly ascribed to the persuasive eloquence of the Prime Minister in placing his scheme before Parliament and the country. On the contrary, several of his more important allegations failed at the moment to produce their intended impression, and the accuracy of many of his facts and his figures were challenged with the least possible delay. The truth is that the novelty and the complexity of the scheme made it almost impossible to express more than a superficial opinion respecting it. The bill raised not one, but several issues. The principles on which it was based were somewhat conflicting, and when the machinery of the bill came to be closely examined, it was found that—whatever the intentions of the Ministry—it was capable of being worked in antagonism to the very object they had expressed anxiety to secure.

It is also evident that in this country, at least, much ignorance prevailed as to the exact character of the existing University system in Ireland, and as to important facts bearing upon any attempt to extend and to reform it. It seems doubtful whether even the Government, which had better means of obtaining information than the rest of the community, was as well acquainted with those facts as was desirable. This, at least, is certain, that it has, in the discussions on Mr. Fawcett's bill, pursued a course which has helped to shroud in mystery what should have been made a plain subject; refusing to admit the public into its confidence, and insisting on keeping a clear stage for the production of a measure which should solve every difficulty, and secure for its authors reputation greater even than that which they have acquired by the passing of the Church and of the Land Acts. This policy could have been justified had it succeeded, but it evidently has not succeeded. The Government scheme has not been taken on trust, but has been examined on its merits, and now the friends of the Government are bewildered at finding that not only is the scheme repudiated by those whose special grievance it it was intended to redress, but that even those who can support the bill, as a whole, are obliged to qualify that support with reservations by which its value is sensibly diminished.

Whether we regret the fact or not, it is impossible to conceal that the hostile manifestations of the last week have very materially affected the position of the measure. Trinity College is not, as was supposed to be the case, propitiated, but declares that the ministerial proposals will lower the standard of academic attainment, and thereby prove fatal to higher education in Ireland, while they will help to perpetuate religious strife. The Committee of Convocation of the Queen's University has issued a statement which, while moderate in tone, and expressing a readiness "to submit to much sacrifice," for the sake of a really natioual university system, urges that such a system cannot exist if a University is to be "subjected to influences in their very nature denominational, and hostile to undenominational institutions." The Presbyterian General Assembly of Ireland equally deprecates the dissolution of the Queen's University and of the Galway College, and the Irish Wesleyan Committee of Education would prefer Mr. Fawcett's plan to that of Mr. Gladstone.

And, unfortunately for his own position in the matter, the one answer which would be most effective in dealing with all these protests and objections cannot be given by the Prime Minister. For he cannot put pressure on his reluctant followers by urging that his scheme, however open to criticism, considered on its merits alone, will fulfil the object for which it was prepared, by removing the Roman Catholic grievance and holding out the hope of a final settlement of an embarrassing controversy. If, at the outset, there was doubt as to the view which the Roman Catholic hierarchy would take of the bill, there is none now. They have not made haste to speak, but, having spoken, they have spoken as plainly as either friend or foe could desire. They declare that the measure perpetuates, instead of curing, the evil of which they complain—that it gives everything to Protestants and nothing to the members of their Church, who are mocked by being told to run a race the prizes in which they will be too much over-weighted to win. They even object to that affiliation of the Catholic University and Colleges which is regarded by Protestants as one of the most doubtful features of the scheme. Finally, they declare—

> Whilst we sincerely desire for the Catholic youth of Ireland a full participation in the advantages of University education, and in the honours, prizes, and degrees intended for the encouragement of learning, we are constrained by a sense of the duty we owe to our flocks to declare that the plan of University education now before Parliament, as being framed on the principle of mixed and purely secular education, is such as Catholic youth cannot avail themselves of without danger to their faith and morals.

Such opposition as this might be boldly faced by means of a measure distinctly conceived for such a purpose; but the purpose of the Government Bill is not to vanquish, but to conciliate, and it fails to conciliate, while making concessions which would be assented to with difficulty, even were it certain that the desired end would be secured.

If when Mr. Gladstone moved the second reading of the bill on Monday night, he had a full conception of the difficulty and danger of the situation, he did not manifest it, either by the nature of his announcements, or by his method of launching the discussion. He was careful to explain that all vested interests would be fully provided for—which no one doubted. We admit also that he made out a fair case for withholding for the present the names of the proposed members of the council of the new Dublin University; but, except in one respect, he indicated no intention on the part of the Government to meet the serious objections which have been taken to various provisions of the bill. He does recognise those objections so far as the affiliation and representation of the colleges are concerned, and, to meet them, he proposes certain conditions and restrictions which, no doubt, would limit the number of colleges entitled to send representatives to the council. It is, however, to the principle of such representation that exception has been taken, and while not attempting to defend that principle, he seemed, by proposing a new method of applying, to indicate a determination to uphold it.

We shall not attempt to predict what will be the issue of these complications, the existence of which we, in the interest of intellectual culture, and in the interest of Ireland, greatly deplore. It is a misfortune that, in this instance, as in some past instances, the fate of Ireland should seem to be bound up with the fate of a Government, and even with the existence of a Parliament. If it could be fearlessly said to the present Government, "Take back your bill, and, in the light of all that has been said of it, produce a scheme free from the objections fairly urged against it, and based on principles which, opposed as they might be by the Irish priesthood, could be confidently relied upon for securing the ultimate support of the Irish people," there would be a hope of a reasonably satisfactory issue. But the political leaders on both sides have, by their antecedent modes of dealing with it, brought the question into an altogether false position, and we suspect that they are now themselves conscious of embarrassment in ridding themselves of it without discredit, and without the risk of future punishment.

THE FALMOUTH AUCTION.

Falmouth, as everyone knows, is an important seaport town picturesquely situated on the Cornwall coast where England stretches away into the ocean over which she boasts her rule. Many an outward-bound vessel, threatened by unfavourable weather, finds a last refuge there, before she finally commits herself to the deep. And many returning wanderers, labouring hard against contrary winds, count themselves happy if they can make the harbour there. Such a place, to say nothing of its own rising population, must present many a fruitful opportunity for spiritual work. "They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." And when he "bringeth them unto their desired haven" it is well that they should "praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." Some such thought, doubtless, must have actuated His Most Religious

Majesty, Charles the Second, when he made Falmouth a parish, and gave to its "parson and his successors for ever," an endowment of sixteenpence in the pound, "on all houses, shops, warehouses, cellars, and outhouses then or thereafter to be built." The parson, which the Rev. Charles Kingsley somewhere tells us is the same thing as person—*the* man of Falmouth—thus stepped into a very important position. Apart from all question of the right to impose a tax upon Quakers, Independents, Presbyterians, Catholics, and in later days on Wesleyans, for the promulgation of doctrines which they conscientiously repudiate, it seems no doubt a very pretty idea that England should thus provide in its western seaport for the spiritual edification and comfort of a seafaring population, and of all storm-tossed wanderers seeking refuge there. But beautiful ideas are never continuously realisable, unless they are vitally associated with a permanently beautiful motive. Supposing the Falmouth people had been all of one mind and had continued so, supposing each generation through continuous religious zeal to have voluntarily and unanimously set apart sixteenpence in the pound on all houses, shops, warehouses, and cellars for the maintenance of a successor to the apostles, this would be a phenomenon which every one might contemplate with pleasure. But in that case it is certain that so Christian a population would never have dreamt of entrusting the appointment of their pastor to any lord of the manor or landed proprietor. Still less would they have dreamed of converting this piece of spiritual patronage into a commodity marketable in auction rooms. The original dissociation of both the patronage and the burden of this ecclesiastical office from the goodwill and devotion of the people concerned, inevitably bore its fruits in the degradation of the pastorate into a "benefice," and of the appointment thereto into a mercenary transaction. It is therefore the system, far more than the people immediately affected by it, which is to blame, if the right to preach the Gospel and to feed the sheep of Christ is now put up to the highest bidder like a newly-arrived cargo or an encumbered estate.

But we shall be told that it is not the office itself which is saleable; only the advowson, *i.e.*, the perpetual right of appointment, or in other cases the next presentation. And we have heard good Christian people maintain that this distinction makes all the difference in the world. How strangely inconsistent are men's susceptibilities in such matters! In Brooklyn so great is the anxiety to attend the ministry of Mr. Ward Beecher, that the sittings of his church are annually put up for hire by the highest bidder; and every year we are entertained by the satirical comments of our ecclesiastical press upon the proceedings at the sale. It is a kind of thing which we for our part are not in the least inclined to defend; but of the two it certainly appears to us that the right to hear may be put up to auction with far more propriety than the right to preach. There may be very much reason for the frequent condemnations which we often hear of the pew-rent system. But wherever it prevails, it is scarcely deniable that churches fix their prices so as to raise as much money as possible therefrom. The step from a private transaction with the deacon or churchwarden to the public competition of the auction-room, is a change more of form than of principle, and it has at least this advantage, that it unblushingly casts off all hypocritical pretence. That everyone availing himself of Church ministrations is bound to contribute for their support to to the extent of his ability is surely a common-sense principle of Christian ethics. And while, in our opinion, the amount of contribution is always best determined by the individual conscience, yet the worst that can be said of pew-hirings by auction or otherwise, is that it is a perversion and an abuse of a right principle. But what are we to think of the consistency of those who, while straining at the gnat of pew-hirings, swallow the camel of the sale of livings? If it is a bad thing that a single poor brother should be excluded from the chief seat in the synagogue, because he cannot pay so much as his rich neighbour, it is surely a much worse thing that both poor and rich alike should have a pastor forced upon them simply because his friends have the means to buy him in. If it is an odious sight to see the privilege of hearing knocked down to the highest bidder, it is surely much more repulsive to see an office, the motives and aims of which are supposed to be purely spiritual, made the object of a degrading mercenary competition. Nor could there be a sadder illustration of the hardening and searing influences of mere use and wont, than the equanimity with which this abominable barter of offices in the Church continues to be regarded to the present day.

In the interests of patriotic feeling, as well as of military efficiency, we have abolished purchase in the army. In the interests of political purity we are striving to diminish that lavish expenditure on elections which makes a seat in Parliament a perquisite of wealth. The most distant notion of the possible acquisition of magisterial or judicial office by any application of money, however indirect, is regarded by all Englishmen as an impossible horror. Only in the Church of God, which we profess to regard as the pillar and ground of the truth, do we allow the most sacred responsibilities to fall to the highest bidder. How long is this scandal to endure? Only one answer can be given: Until the disestablishment of the Church. A letter in the *Daily News*, from the son of the present patroness of Falmouth Rectory, urges, not unreasonably, that a country which recognised even extra-legal prices in the compensation made to officers, on the abolition of purchase, is bound to recognise to the full the vested interests of those whose family possessions have been sunk in advowsons. We are unable to dispute it. We are sure that purchase in the Church can never be abolished but by the satisfaction of all claims to which a comfortable and well-to-do people is naturally susceptible. And we are equally sure that no such compensation can ever be made until it is embodied in a bill for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church. The questions which would be raised are far too delicate and complicated to be settled amidst the strife of parties by any half measure of ecclesiastical reform. Only on one condition will Imperial Parliament give to such a matter the attention and time necessary; and that condition is an impulse of the national will to be rid of ecclesiastical politics for ever. Here then we have an additional reason, if one were needed, why all spiritually-minded Episcopalians should regard us as the true friends of their Church.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

It may possibly be recollected that when Mr. Disraeli first assumed the championship of the Episcopalian Establishment—when, in relation to the proposal to abolish Church-rates, he spoke of "the decay of empires and the fall of nations," some Churchmen expressed their doubts as to his being their best leader. These doubts arose partly from a question as to his personal fitness, and partly from an objection to the "cause of the Church" being handed over to the Conservative party as such. The same thing is occurring now. Mr. Disraeli has given notice, as our readers are aware, of his intention to oppose the second reading of the Burials Bill, and a correspondent of the *Guardian*, the Rev. S. B. James, rector of Northmarston, Bucks, writes to express his "distrust and apprehension" with regard to the prominent connection of Mr. Disraeli with the opposition to that measure. It means, he says, that Mr. Disraeli would make Church Defence a party question, and he does not think it can prosper in this way. He is of opinion that people will not subscribe a guinea or even eighteenpence a-year, towards bringing Mr. Disraeli and his party into power, and that Liberal M.P.'s however "Churchy" they may be, will not follow his leadership. Says Mr. James:—

> Once make Church Defence a part of the Conservative programme, and not only *hoc Ithacus velit*, Ithacus being (clumsily enough) represented by Mr. Miall, but also disestablishment will come more than a remote contingency. I would not presume to express this as a mere individual opinion, still less as merely my own opinion. Scores of your readers will at this juncture endorse it, I am sure, and will not be sorry that you have allowed so brief and bare an expression of their sentiments.

It is not for us to question the wisdom of the political tactics of the Church Defence party. In one sense we have never admired them; in another sense they have excited our strong admiration—the sort of admiration, that is to say, which Cromwell felt and expressed at the battle of Dunbar. They always end in their defeat.

It will be seen, however, from this letter that there is a determination still to adhere to the intolerant and unjust law of burial which it is the object of Mr. Osborne Morgan's bill to repeal. Another correspondent of the *Guardian* writes to denounce the measure in very strong language. He appeals to the clergy to urge upon county and borough representatives their strong opposition to it. He thinks it cannot be carried if it be only properly opposed. But does not this correspondent slightly overrate the political power of the clergy? Is he not aware that the majority of members of Parliament are chosen against the wishes and the influence of those of his own order? Why, then, should members of Parliament attend to their expostulations? And besides, what can be said of "political" clergymen when Church defenders are shocked at the existence of "political Dissenters," all of whom, of course, are only "laymen"?

Tuesday's *Times* contains, in advertisement shape, a solemn "statement" against the measure, in which Churchmen are urged to "send petitions and write urgently and persistently" to members to vote against it. A catalogue of the grievances which it is considered will be created by it is given, prominent amongst which are that "intruding Dissenter comes in, not by permission, but by right"; that "the Dissenter may enter any churchyard in the parish"; and that he will, no doubt "leave ungodly and immoral Dissenters to the clergyman," and that it is "disestablishment and disendowment in a carefully concealed form." A curious argument used in this "statement" is that—

> The parish churchyards, in which all parishioners have the common law right of burial, but for whose maintenance Dissenters are not bound to pay one farthing, there being no compulsory church-rate, and in the management of which they therefore in law and in equity have no voice, are to be thrown open for burials.

Surely, if this is good for anything, it is good against "the common law right of burial." Why should Dissenters have any right of burial at all? That is the logical position to take. However, it is evident that the more intolerant class of Churchmen will do their utmost to defeat this measure. The same people have succeeded in throwing out the Church-rate Abolition Bill, the Offices Declaration Bill, and other bills, and what was the result? The second reading of Mr. Osborne Morgan's measure is down for March 26 and—our readers will see what is being done by our opponents.

We quoted, a week or two ago, an extract from a letter of the Rev. Edmund Verity to the *Manchester Courier*, in which that gentlemanly clergyman expressed his opinion that Dissenters ought to be "cast out" of the kingdom. Another clergyman, the Rev. C. Carter, of Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, has expressed himself in equally unambiguous language as to the heathen condition of Dissenters. It appears that the Rev. James Legge, Nonconformist minister of Hanley, had been informed that Mr. Carter, in a visit to the Shelton day-school, addressed the Nonconformist children there, told them it was wicked and sinful to go to chapel; that they could not be saved unless they attended Church and were christened and confirmed, &c. Upon this Mr. Legge wrote to Mr. Carter asking that gentleman whether he had used that or any other language with similar purport. We quote from the *Staffordshire Sentinel* of Saturday last the reply of this clergyman, which, we are sure, will be read with interest, if not with admiration:—

> Havelock-place, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent,
> February 18, 1873.
>
> Sir,—In reply to your note of this morning, I beg to inform you that the statements quoted by you are in general terms corret (*sic*), and, as far as they are so, I answer them.
>
> First: Is it sinful to go to Chapel? I refer you to the litany, where we pray "*from heresy and schism good Lord deliver us*," conforming with the teaching of Christ, "if he will not hear the Church," &c., St. Matthew xviii. 17; and of St. Paul, "Mark them which cause divisions . . . and avoid them," Romans xvi. 17; see also Titus, iii. 10.
>
> Secondly: As to the necessity of the sacrements (*sic*) I teach that "Baptism and the Supper of the Lord are generally necessary to salvation," see St. John iii. 5, also vi. 53, &c., also Church Catechism. Confirmation the Church does not hold as necessary to salvation, since in certain cases it may be dispensed with.
>
> Thirdly: As to the possibility of worshiping (*sic*) God in chapel, Christ teaches us that we can worship Him in our private closets.
>
> You are doubtless aware that in Dissenting Chapels you can have no confirmation, their being no Bishop, nor can you receive the Holy Communion, there being *no preist* (*sic*) *to celebrate*.
>
> This is the teaching of the Church of England, which I and every faithful preist (*sic*) of her communion are bound to hold.
>
> I therefore decline to argue respecting the dogmatic teaching of the Church.
>
> I am, however, ready to instruct in the Christian religion you, or any of your friends, who may attend my classes in the vestry, with the object of acquiring information.
>
> I answer your letter as a private individual, for I cannot recognise your assumed office of *pastor*, to which no episcopal authority has ever appointed you.
>
> As to the threats [of publication] with which you close your letter, I trust that I sufficiently know my duty to my God and His church to despise them.
>
> Yours obediently,
> Conway Carter.

We really need make no remark upon this, excepting to say that the Shelton day-school is supported by State aid, and of course has what is termed a "conscience clause," of the value of which this is an illustration.

Sectarianism in burial, sectarianism in school, and now we have the same characteristic sectarianism in missions. The *Chronicle* of the London Missionary Society for the present month contains an instructive correspondence between the Rev. Dr.

Mullens and the Secretary of the Propagation Society, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Earl Granville, relative to the proposed Madagascar bishopric. It appears that in the course of last year the Directors of the London Missionary Society received information from Madagascar that the Rev. A. Chiswell, the missionary of the Propagation Society, had paid a visit to the capital, and at once commenced holding Episcopalian services, forming classes for the young, and discrediting the mission and work of the London Missionary Society. Now there has been a "practical arrangement" to the effect that the two Episcopalian missions should have the east coast to themselves, leaving the London Missionary Society in possession of the capital, where their work has been so marvellously successful. Dr. Mullens therefore wrote to the Propagation Secretary, and inquired whether Mr. Chiswell had gone, or would remain there with the sanction of the society, and received in reply a note to the effect that the Propagation Committee were aware of Mr. Chiswell's proceedings, that they had assured him that "they had heard with great satisfaction" his account of his labours, and of the discretion he had exercised with reference to the London Missionary Society," Mr. Chiswell stating that he had not, to his knowledge, interfered with or affected their work. Upon this Dr. Mullens addressed a remonstrance to the Archbishop of Canterbury, relating both to Mr. Chiswell and to the proposed bishopric. Another remonstrance was also addressed to Lord Granville. The archbishop, in reply, thinks that the Church should act, as much as possible, in harmony with the London Society, but insists on the necessity of a bishop for the two congregations and seven hundred adherents of Church-of-Englandism, for "the Church of England absolutely requires the presence of a bishop for confirmation as well as for ordination," but he will accept "a limited territorial scheme." Once more Dr. Mullens remonstrates, enclosing letters from Mr. Chiswell and their own missionary, and there, at present, the correspondence ends. And so the Christians of the Madagascar capital, with its 400,000 converts of the London Missionary Society, presenting a spectacle of Christian unity, love, and harmony unequalled in the world, are to have the bone of religious contention thrown amongst them simply in order that a few of them may be attracted to Episcopalianism. Dr Mullens has delivered a noble protest against this scandalous sectarianism. We wish for no aid of law to prevent it, but we do expect for it the indignant reprobation of most Christian men.

We have received a copy of a pamphlet on "Church Defence" which may beguile any reader into an hour's amusement. It is by the author of the pamphlet entitled the "Comedy of Convocation," which appeared some three or four years ago. That pamphlet was reported to have been written by a well-known dignitary of the Roman Catholic Church, but the "Roman hand" was not quite so obvious as it is in the production before us. Nevertheless, this one is worth reading. Clever, humorous, witty, learned, written by a keen but sarcastic observer of the troubles of the Establishment, it is calculated to make Defenders wince as much as it is to make all others smile. It is an account, with reported speeches, of a Conference on Church Defence, held in Dean Marmion's Library, and attended by a dozen Churchmen of the four different parties in the Establishment. It is not in the least difficult to identify most of the characters. "On, Stanley, on—were the last words of Marmion." And who can mistake Archdeacon Tennyson or the Bishop of Dorchester? The Dean invites them all to "seek a common principle of action in defending the National Church," and forthwith the discussion begins by one asking which of the "four Churches" represented it was proposed to defend? Broad Churchman, Evangelical, Ritualist, rises in turn. Speech after speech on all sorts of subjects is made. Amongst others, the Bishop of Brighton (Low Churchman) attacks the Ritualists, closing his speech with this description of them :—

He thought the true character of these gentlemen might be summed up as follows:—They were so enamoured of *unity*, that they wished to keep it all to themselves, and would allow none to share it with them; so devoted to *obedience*, that as they could find no Church worthy to claim it, they resolved to obey nothing; and so submissive to *authority*, that in the absence of a living one in the present, they went back a thousand years to find a dead one in the past. Finally, while they refused to be called Protestants, they never cease to protest against everything on earth, and were so resolutely Catholic, that they communicated very little with their own Church and not at all with any other.

And so each Church is alternately pulled to pieces by the other, and as Archdeacon Tennyson says towards the close of this unquestionably lively meeting, he "thought that, in this lamentable conference, of which he should never think without shame and confusion, all that was least lovely in their Church had been gathered together into a focus, as if to present a grotesque and distorted image of it to the contempt and aversion of mankind." Everybody leaves in a rather miserable condition of mind. And Church Defence? Well, really nothing is said about it!

The death of Mr. John Thorogood, the "Church-rates Martyr," as he was once termed, carries us back to very old days. Mr. Thorogood was imprisoned, in 1840, in Chelmsford gaol, for refusing to pay a church-rate of 5s. 6d. His testimony against the system was of high moral value, and gave rise at the time to great excitement. He has died, in good old age, having seen the gradual triumph of the principle for which he once suffered.

CLERICAL EVASION OF THE UNIVERSITIES ACT.

We are led to say a few words on this subject by a timely publication which has just come under our notice.* By the issue of this pamphlet, Mr. Pottinger has rendered a considerable service to the public. Unfortunately, in these busy times, most even of those who have an interest in the highest academical education, are but imperfectly acquainted with the details of University action; and therefore are seldom competent to measure the loyalty with which those who are entrusted with the administration of Oxford and Cambridge carry out the reforms which Parliament has sanctioned and insisted on. Those who have, for the last twenty years, demanded and obtained, through the legislature, that religious opinion shall not be a bar to academical education and academical emoluments, are probably under the impression that the University of Oxford has done its duty by the law. The study of Mr. Pottinger's pamphlet will force upon them the disagreeable conviction that true ends are not yet attained, and may lead them to debate anew on the means by which further and fuller guarantees may be obtained against the intolerant chicanery of the Oxford clergy.

Let us make every allowance for human nature. No monopolists ever like to be deprived of an advantage, however unjust and mischievous the monopoly may be, and the clerical possessors of a monopoly are as passionate and vindictive as monopoly can make man. There is, moreover, a peculiar pleasure in harassing those who differ from a political system of Church government, such as that of the Establishment is, because such a process gratifies spite and suggests zeal. It signifies nothing that the clerical majority of the Oxford administration agree in hardly any tenet beyond adherence to the Establishment, and its maintenance at all costs and hazards; or that they are debarred from any action against those whom they dislike. Disobedience to law, evasions of plain public duty, and intrigue, are the universal and just charges against a privileged clergy. Very frequently such parties justify the condemnation passed upon them, by affecting to consider that their own self-interest is a higher law.

Mr. Pottinger has shown that while the Legislature has resolved that academical authorities shall put no questions to members of the University as to their religious belief, their preference for this or that form of Church government, and its relation to secular institutions, and to similar avowals, the authorities of Oxford have resolved to exact declarations from undergraduates, which shall be equivalent to designating themselves as members of the Establishment, or dissenters from its tenets or its government. There is, of course, for all practical purposes, no difference between "a declaration respecting one's religious belief or profession," which the Act 30 Vict. cap. 26 forbids the University to demand, and a "statement of objection on religious grounds to an examination" in the tenets of the Anglican Church, which the authorities of University still exact, in defiance of the law. Both processes are equally available for ticketing the intruder, and for exposing his Nonconformity, and both are equally illegal.

If the Universities are to retain their power of self-government, they must be freed from clerical trammels. Till this liberty is achieved, religious equality is a fiction, common justice will not be satisfied, and the deliberate intentions of the Legislature will be frustrated. Nor is this all. There is nothing more disastrous to the morality of young men than the spirit of a body of persons, under whose control they are placed, seeking by underhand evasions to nullify the plain meaning of the law. The evil is increased when the parties who descend to these subterfuges indulge in the loftiest language of sacerdotal pretension, and affect an authority which is almost Divine. Rightly or wrongly, the University of Oxford is credited with a new and alarming growth of scepticism. There is good reason for anticipating such a result, when academical authorities deal dishonestly with plain public duties, and exhibit themselves to the youth about them as determined, by every possible trick, to maintain a position which has been declared to be untenable. A State Church may think it desirable to depend on such acts. Christianity does not; and it may be not very long before it is discovered that the worst enemy Christianity has is an organisation which sacrifices common honour, in order to maintain an illegal supremacy.

* *University Tests: A Short Account of the Contrivances by which the Acts of Parliament abolishing Tests and Declarations have been evaded at Oxford.* By H. A. POTTINGER, M.A. (Ridgway, 169, Piccadilly.)

THE IRISH UNIVERSITY BILL.

The Roman Catholics have pronounced upon the University Bill in a series of resolutions, of which the following is the substance:—That the measure, instead of redressing, perpetuates Catholic grievances, upholding two out of three of the Queen's Colleges, and planting in the metropolis two other great teaching institutions, the same in principle with the Queen's Colleges. That, putting out of view the few Catholics who may avail themselves of mixed education, the new bill, in point of fact, gives to Protestant Episcopalians, to Presbyterians, and to the new sect of Secularists, the immense endowments for university education in this country, while to the Catholic University is given nothing, and the Catholic people of Ireland, the great majority of the nation and the poorest part of it, are left to provide themselves with endowments for their colleges out of their own resources. That this injustice is aggravated by another circumstance. The measure provides that the degrees and prizes of the new university shall be open to Catholics, but it provides for Catholics no endowed intermediate schools, no endowment for their own college, no well-stocked library, museum, or other collegiate requisite; no professorial staff, none of the means for coping on fair and equal terms with their Protestant or other competitors; and then Catholics thus overweighted are told that they are free to contend in the race for university prizes and distinctions. That we will not consent to the affiliation of the Catholic University to the new University unless the proposed scheme be largely modified; and we have the same objection to the affiliation of other Catholic colleges in Ireland. That whilst we sincerely desire for the Catholic youth of Ireland a full participation in the advantages of University education, and in the honours, prizes, and degrees intended for the encouragement of learning, we are constrained by a sense of the duty we owe to our flocks to declare that the plan of University education now before Parliament, as being framed on the principle of mixed and purely secular education, is such as Catholic youth cannot avail themselves of without danger to their faith and morals." The manifesto was signed by Cardinal Cullen, Dr. Conroy, of Ardagh, and Dr. Macdermott, of Raphoe.

At a meeting of representatives of the London Nonconformist Committee, the Central Nonconformist Committee, the Liverpool Nonconformist Association, and the Manchester Nonconformist Association, held at Crewe on Thursday, the Government measure for University education in Ireland was discussed, and, after much consideration, the following resolutions were passed: "That this meeting of the representatives of the Nonconformist committees of London, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Manchester, having considered the University Education (Ireland) Bill in its relation to the interests of religious equality, approves of the general principle of the bill in so far as it provides for the separation of the theological faculty from Trinity College, Dublin; the abolition of tests, and the establishment of a University open to all without distinction of creed; but regards some of the clauses of the bill as calculated practically to contravene the general principle it asserts. 1. That this meeting strongly objects to the representation of denominational colleges upon the council of a national University, as bestowing upon sectarian institutions both a national recognition and an authority they have no right to obtain, and as constituting a method by which the control of the University may be taken away from its own members and placed in the hands of any ecclesiastical corporation. 2. That this meeting desires to express its disapproval of those clauses of the bill which prohibit the governing body of the University from establishing chairs of modern history and moral and mental philosophy, and from examining candidates for matriculation fellowships, exhibitions, and bursaries in those objects, and also prevents any candidate for a degree from being examined in them, except at his special request, as unnecessary for the protection of the rights of conscience, and as interfering with the advancement of learning. 3. That this meeting protests against the dissolution of Galway College, believing it to be

for the interests of religious equality in Ireland that the number of colleges affording education free from sectarian bias should be increased rather than diminished. 4. That this meeting calls serious attention to the Clause 11, which gives the council of the University power to exercise a religious censorship, and punish any University officer who may, when in discharge of his functions, "by word of mouth, writing, or otherwise, be held by them to have wilfully given offence to the religious convictions of any member of the University," as a clause which, unless considerably modified, may become the instrument for the exercise of great ecclesiastical tyranny, and which, at least, should contain a right of appeal. That copies of these resolutions be forwarded to the Prime Minister, Liberal members of Parliament, and all officers of Nonconformist committees.

After three days' debate the Senate of Trinity College, Dublin, on Thursday adopted a petition to Parliament praying for the rejection of the bill, urging that it would lower the standard of academic attainment, prove fatal to higher education in Ireland, and help to perpetuate religious strife. On Friday it was resolved without a division—

"That in the opinion of this Senate it is desirable that the House of Commons should adopt the principles of the Dublin University Bill introduced by Mr. Fawcett, which would prevent this ancient University being deprived of its privileges and power, while abolishing all religious tests in Trinity College.

Dr. Stoney proposed a series of resolutions, providing for an enlargement of the resources of Trinity, so as to admit of a variety of teaching; also the establishment of non-theological faculties for persons of all denominations, with separate provisions for each Church in the faculty of theology alone, and the establishment of denominational halls within the University. After a long discussion the previous question was carried. The Senate was then dissolved.

The Convocation of the Queen's University have published a very elaborate statement, in which the policy of Mr. Gladstone's bill is emphatically condemned. They say that the affiliated colleges without number must all eventually and necessarily be endowed at immense cost. They propose to unite Queen's University and the University of Dublin.

The committee of the Presbyterian General Assembly at Belfast have adopted resolutions on the Irish University Bill, approving of the separation of the faculty of theology from Dublin University, but deprecating the dissolution of the Queen's University and Queen's College, Galway.

The Irish Wesleyan Committee of Education has unanimously adopted resolutions to the effect that while they approved of the transfer of the theological faculty from Trinity College to a representative body, and while they are opposed to endowment of denominational colleges, they regard the Government University Bill as objectionable, because while it lowers the standard of higher education by the omission of subjects hitherto embraced in University education, it will not settle the question as regards the demands of Roman Catholics. The Committee would prefer the continuance of the Queen's Colleges with Trinity College, remodelled according to Mr. Fawcett's plan.

Writing on Saturday, the Dublin correspondent of the *Times* says:—The University scheme is the great topic of the week. Its transcendent importance is recognised on all sides, and never has a public question been more keenly and warmly discussed. Every sect and party has expressed its opinion upon it, and there can be little doubt that if time were allowed there would be a general agitation through the country against the Government proposal. The baiting of the bill has been carried on with a fierceness which threatens to be destructive. Conservatives and Liberals, Unionists, Nationalists, and Fenians, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Roman Catholics, professors, prelates, priests, and parsons, all ready to devour each other if there were no common object of attack, have fastened upon it with equal tenacity and fury. Will the bill withstand their combined onslaught? Will one set be tossed off or impaled upon the denominational horn, and another set upon the "great principle of united education"? or will the bill, in its second dash against the "Upas tree," get immoveably fixed by both horns, and in this helpless state be torn in pieces? The result is awaited with eager interest. It seems to be a hopeless task to try to make the scheme acceptable to all parties. No political alchymist, however skilful, it is believed, can fuse the heterogeneous elements of which it is composed. The declarations of hostility which have been made in quick succession during the week by different bodies with various degrees of force, from the mild remonstrance of the Board of Trinity College to the tremendous resolutions of the Roman Catholic bishops, place beyond doubt the discouraging fact that it is regarded with unqualified disapproval on all sides." This view is verified by large extracts from the Irish papers, both sections of which (Protestant and Romanist) unite in condemnation of the measure.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT.

DISCUSSION AT WINSFORD.

On Tuesday evening, the 25th February, a public discussion took place in the New Inn Hall, Winsford, between the Rev. G. S. Reaney, of Warrington, and the Rev. Dr. Potter, of Sheffield. The discussion, which had been arranged for some time, was originally to have taken place between Mr. Reaney and Dr. Massingham, but ultimately Dr. Potter took Dr. Massingham's place. It commenced at seven o'clock, at which time the Town Hall was filled by a respectable audience, who had been admitted by tickets equally divided between the Winsford Conservative Association, and the Over and Winsford Liberal Association. A chairman was selected for each of the disputants, Mr. Richard Beckett being chairman for the Rev. Dr. Potter, and Mr. Thomas Rigby, of Over, for the Rev. G. S. Reaney. After a few introductory observations from Mr. Beckett, the Rev. G. S. Reaney commenced the debate on the question, "Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Established Church, not injurious to that Church, and just to the nation." The first part of Mr. Reaney's exceedingly able and clear address was devoted to a vindication of the right of the Nonconformists to demand separation of Church and State. He then proceeded to maintain that separation would benefit the Church herself, enlarging, at this point, on the impossibility of Church reform, and on the injurious influence of the Church upon the nation. Mr. Reaney's historical references were very numerous, and he sat down with cheers.

Dr. Potter began by insisting that he should have the right to close the debate, which Mr. Reaney readily conceded to him. He then proceeded to deal with Mr. Reaney's address, which he characterised at the outset as a "diatribe and ferocious attack upon the externals and internals of the national religion." He went on to some of the ecclesiastical ordinances of the Commonwealth, to the results of voluntaryism in the Church, to infidelity, to education, and to various other points, his reply being very well received.

Mr. Reaney, in responding, referred to the courteous character of his opponent's address, and then proceeded to deal with the question of disendowment, proving the national character of ecclesiastical property, and replying to various statements made by Dr. Potter. He sat down with great applause.

Dr. Potter once more rose to reply, using the customary arguments of Church defenders upon this subject, and Mr. Reaney again rejoined. Dr. Potter expressed his wish to meet Mr. Reaney in order to discuss the Scriptural aspects of the question, to which Mr. Reaney expressed his willingness to consent. As Dr. Potter was to lecture on the succeeding evening, Mr. Reaney engaged to reply to him. At the close of the debate, which was conducted with great fairness, the Rev. Dr. Potter proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Rigby (his opponent's chairman). He said he had never met a more intelligent, unprejudiced and genteel audience, and the way in which they had listened to the debate was a credit to the men of Winsford. The vote was carried unanimously, and Mr. Rigby acknowledged the compliment. The Rev. G. S. Reaney proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Beckett, and echoed what the Rev. Dr. Potter had said in regard to the way in which the audience had behaved, observing that he was satisfied with the demeanour of those present in every way. The Rev. Mr. Walker seconded the proposition, which was unanimously passed. Mr. Beckett briefly responded, and the meeting terminated.

The verbatim report of this discussion occupies more than thirteen columns in the *Warrington Guardian* of last Saturday.

DISTURBANCES AT SKIPTON.

On the 27th, the Rev. J. H. Gordon visited Skipton for the purpose of replying to a lecture by the Rev. T. T. Berger. The *Craven Pioneer* says that by the hour of meeting the seats in the Town Hall were in use, and in the course of a short time all the available standing room was occupied. "It was evident, even before the lecturer and his supporters appeared, that a disturbing element was present, and during the delivery of a few opening sentences by the chairman, J. B. Dewhurst, Esq., it was quite apparent that a good number of persons, chiefly youths and young men, had entered the room with a fixed determination to thwart the object of the meeting. The local clergy and other influential Churchmen of the town, who heard Mr. Berger's lecture, were conspicuously absent on this occasion. Mr. Berger's good fortune in securing a fair hearing for a lecture of two hours' duration, may certainly be attributed in no small measure to the example of patient and respectful attention set by his political opponents. Having obtained for Mr. Berger the privilege of a good hearing, the defenders of State-Churchism did not care to return the courtesy. Had they done so, we would fain believe, they would have been spared the annoyance of knowing that Mr. Gordon could not get a hearing. Their cause has been scandalised by one of the most disorderly meetings ever held in Skipton." No report of this meeting is given, but we understand that it was broken up in confusion owing to the persistent clamour of the opponents.

Our contemporary says:—"A serious question must now be faced by the clergy and laity of the Conformist body of our town—'How is this disgrace to be obliterated?' Mr. Gordon and other Liberationist advocates *must* be heard in Skipton. What steps can be taken to prove that the rector was candid when he said, on their behalf, 'What they wanted was the truth, and *by the truth they would stand or fall*'? At this moment their cause was under a cloud. The only impression made by the disgraceful scenes of Thursday night is that 'the truth,' as Mr. Gordon believes and states it, they *dare not hear*. Justice to themselves, and justice to those who gave an admirable hearing to Mr. Berger, requires that Mr. Gordon, or some other accredited advocate of disestablishment, shall be fairly heard in our Town Hall."

HEYWOOD.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 19, a lecture, by the Rev. Marmaduke Miller, on "Church property," was given at Heywood, Mr. Bell presiding, who, referring to what had taken place in other towns, asked for a patient hearing. Mr. Miller delivered a very comprehensive lecture, which was listened to with great attention. The Rev. W. L. Mayo proposed, and the Rev. W. Francis seconded the usual vote of thanks. It was passed with acclamation, as was also a vote to the chairman. Questions were invited, but none were put.

LEEK.

Twice the meetings convened by the Liberation Society in this town have been seriously disturbed by the friends of the Establishment, and, as a result, some time has elapsed since one was held. They, however, lately determined to have a meeting in support of Mr. Miall's motion, and to take steps to prevent a recurrence of the scenes which had formerly disgraced the town. On Friday evening last, therefore, the meeting was convened by circular only, and the production of the circular was required for admission. Notwithstanding this private mode of convening it, the meeting was large, and while all denominations were represented, and some friends of the Church of England were present, there was perfect order, combined with a good deal of enthusiasm. The meeting was held in the Congregational schoolroom, and the Rev. J. Hankinson, the minister, presided. Mr. Carvell Williams came down and delivered an address on the present position of the Establishment movement, and Mr. Joshua Nicholson, the Rev. Mr. Leach, Mr. Dixon and others, took part in the proceedings, which will serve greatly to reassure the Liberation party.

MEETINGS IN DORSETSHIRE.

During the last month the Rev. J. Neave, of Dorchester, has lectured in various places, including Beaminster, Stoke-sub-Hamber, Stalbridge, and Dorchester. Mr. Neave has been enthusiastically received in some places, and well supported by the local ministers and others.

MR. GORDON IN SCOTLAND.

We stated, some time since, that Mr. Gordon, of Darlington, would visit Scotland, and we reported a meeting held at Dumfries. Since then Mr. Gordon has lectured at Annan, preached at Newton Stewart, lectured at Wigtown, held a meeting at Stranraer and at Kirkcudbright, &c. A considerable increase of interest in the question is reported amongst the Free Churchmen.

CROYDON.

On Monday the first of a course of lectures was delivered in the Public Hall; the lecturer being Mr. Carvell Williams, and his subject, "The Church of England: shall it be reformed or disestablished?" Mr. Spencer Balfour presided, and there was a good attendance, among those present being the Rev. T. Gilfillan, Rev. W. Clarkson, Rev. S. Parkinson, Rev. J. Whiting, Rev. Dr. Brock, Rev. E. Waite, Rev. R. R. Suffield, and Rev. W. H. Aubrey. The lecturer described those features of the Church Establishment in regard to which it was admitted by Churchmen that there must be reform, and quoted from Church writers evidence in support of his statements. In dealing with Church patronage, he described the scene which he had witnessed at the Auction Mart last week, when it was attempted to sell the advowson of Falmouth rectory, and insisted that such scandals would not be got rid of till the Church was disestablished. At the close, the Rev. W. Clarkson proposed a resolution, thanking the lecturer, and expressing concurrence in his views. He (Mr. Clarkson) thought the inhabitants of Croydon were much indebted to Mr. Williams for a lecture so able, so full of serious facts, and characterised by so much of right feeling. The Rev. R. R. Suffield (formerly Father Suffield), who seconded the motion, described the Establishment as a criminal alliance of three opposing sects, bound together by merely worldly ties. He strongly deprecated the handing over of the cathedrals to the Church of England. The Rev. Messrs. Aubrey and Whiting also spoke, and it was announced that Dr. Edmond and the Rev. A. Hannay would lecture on the two following Mondays.

GAINSBOROUGH.

On the 25th ult., the Rev. W. Clarkson, B.A., of Lincoln, lectured here on "Disestablishment: why is it wanted." There was a large audience, and at the close a motion in favour of Mr. Miall's resolution was carried with but a few dissentients.

ISLINGTON.

On Monday evening, March 3rd, a lecture was delivered in Myddelton Hall, Islington, by the Rev. Marmaduke Miller; subject, "The Present Position of the Church Establishment Question." Alderman Lusk, M.P., presided, and there was a large and enthusiastic audience. The lecture was arranged by the Finsbury Council of the Liberation Society, and there were present on the platform Messrs. Stafford Allen, Chatfeild Clarke, C. H. Elt, J. Glover, A. H. Haggis, E. C. Jukes, R. Sinclair, R. Stone, J. B. George, and H. Spicer, jun. The lecture, which was a most able as well as a most moderate one, was listened to with the greatest attention, and frequent applause testified the appreciation of the audience. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. H. Spicer, jun., seconded by Mr. Chatfeild Clarke, and carried

by acclamation. It was announced by the secretary, Mr. Jukes, that the lecture just delivered was the first of a series, the second of which is to be delivered by the Rev. J. A. Picton, of Hackney, and the third by Neville Goodman, Esq., of Cambridge—dates, places, and subjects to be duly advertised. A vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Alderman Lusk, M.P., proposed by Mr. John Glover and seconded by Mr. C. H. Elt, brought this most successful meeting to a close.

DISESTABLISHMENT IN THE WEST INDIES.

A correspondent thus reports progress relative to the disestablishment question in British Guiana and Grenada:—

The bill to establish a Synod of the English Church in British Guiana, now before the Legislature of that colony, is opposed by a number of rectors and curates, because it proposes to admit laymen, and otherwise will prove injurious to the Established Church. The English Church in Guiana receives out of the general taxation of the colony 50,000 dollars a year. The revenue of the colony is raised by import duties, grogshop and spirit licences, etc., by means of which the 50,000 heathen coolies from Calcutta and China are compelled to pay towards the support of the English, Scotch, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan, and other churches. The friends of religious equality should bring this phase of Church endowment prominently under the notice of the Colonial Office.

The Bill for the "disestablishment and gradual disendowment of the Church of England" in the colony of Grenada has been introduced into the Assembly, and it appears likely that it will be passed.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

The following project of the Episcopalians was set forth a few days ago in the columns of the *Times*, and deserves the attention of Nonconformists:—

In a quiet suburb of the city of Chichester a few persons were busied on Wednesday last in the commencement of a new enterprise, which, bearing, as it does most directly, upon one of the most prominent of our social questions, is one of the widest social interest.

The occurrence was the opening of a training college in connection with the Committee of Privy Council on Education, in which ladies of gentle birth may be educated and trained for the profession of elementary school teachers, in schools connected with the Education Department. Hitherto this description of work has been undertaken solely by women of a lower social standing. Yet at the same time the work is one in which higher breeding and higher culture, as well as technical skill, may be of the utmost value, and it is one, also, in which competent ability and industry meet with competent remuneration.

During the last few years no cry has been raised more loudly than that of our unemployed ladies for two things—1, for work simply as work; 2, for work as a means of independent subsistence. Ladies of culture and gentle breeding, without independent fortune, have been demanding a sphere in which they might satisfy the twofold desire at once of usefulness to others and of an honourable maintenance for themselves. Strange to say, hitherto the work of teaching the children of the poor has been all but ignored by these classes, although, when seriously considered, one might have expected it to be the first thing thought of. Female teachers form a recognised profession; their work is at least as useful to the community as that of a nursing sister, the remuneration affords a maintenance superior to that of the ordinary governess, and the demand is unfailing.

Teaching is an art; school-keeping and school-managing have to be learned. It is something to be able to teach an individual. It is much more to have the knack of keeping fifty or sixty little morsels of female humanity to their work briskly and yet quietly for the allotted hours in the schoolroom. It is an art which needs time, practice, and imitation of those who are already initiated. Hence our existing class of schoolmistresses have all gone through the routine of the training college, with its practising school and its model school. Just as ladies who take up nursing as a profession have to go through their course of training, so must ladies who hereafter shall take up teaching as their profession submit to a course of training too. They must fall into the ranks, and work according to the conditions of the great system which is now all but universal in our modern England. Foremost among those conditions is the inexorable law that the Government subsidies which go so far to maintain these schools and pay their teachers are given only in proportion to "results." Every pupil's work is separately tested, and the shillings and pence corresponding thereto separately counted. The lady will not merely have to teach—she must teach so that each pupil shall learn. She must also teach so that each pupil shall have so learned as to reproduce her knowledge before Her Majesty's Inspector. All this is easy enough if your lady teacher has learnt her trade before she enters upon it. It is hopeless without preliminary training.

Such training is now offered to lady candidates for the teacher's office through the newly-organised college at Chichester, which was opened the other day. Its object is to open out a way for cultivated women to enter what is in reality a vast national profession—a profession created by the national Legislature—and by entering it to benefit, not themselves only, but both the profession itself and the whole area of the lower classes, which need so deeply the early contact with women of refinement and culture as well as mere education. More depends upon the mothers and wives of the working classes than people commonly think. The true antagonist of the beershops is not the Temperance League, but it is the decent wife and the decent home. Let the girls' school be not merely a place where little girls are grounded in the three R's, of which we hear so much, but are brought into hourly contact with a woman who is herself a channel of thoughts and feelings purer and higher than those which they find elsewhere, and something at least will be done towards the improvement of the future homes of those whom we have been taught to call "our new masters."

THE LONDON NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE.

On Monday evening, the 3rd inst., the Rev. Dr. Edmond delivered a thoughtful and instructive lecture to a large and appreciative audience in Stepney Meeting-house, on the "Comprehension Theory of Church Establishments." The Doctor admitted that at first sight this principle looked very amiable and attractive, but as it came to be examined, it would be found to involve contradictions so irreconcileable as to render its practical application to the Established Church of this country altogether impossible. Figures of speech are not logic, but they may indicate the line of logic; the union of a lion and an eagle would be a most incongruous and unnatural thing, but scarcely less so than that of the State with the Church, which belonged respectively to such widely different spheres, the one being of "the earth earthy," the other spiritual and divine. Accordingly, it had been found, whatever the theory of the union of Church and State, whether that which made the Church subordinate to the State, or that which as in the Papacy gave pre-eminence to the Church over the State, or as in Scotland, preserved with tolerable fairness the balance of power between the two, utterly impossible to link them together without inflicting injury on one or other or both. The comprehension theory by which various religious beliefs were to be patronised and endowed, was beginning to be advocated as the only possible basis of a Church Establishment; but fascinating as it looks in the picturesque sentences of Dean Stanley or the politic platitudes of the Primate, it was met by so many limitations, and so wanting in the harmonising principle, without which no union was either beautiful or real, that it required very little thought to reveal its worthlessness. All true Christians desire union; the Nonconformists of this country, in their recognition of each other's Christian character and usefulness, and in the growing thinness of the walls of separation between them, show how sincerely they cultivate it, but the moment it is attempted, by the hand of political power, to hold together the differences that exist amongst us the tender, sensitive spirit of Christian charity would be banished, and a hard formal rigour substituted in its place. Would that be a gain? Already in the Church of England there is a comprehension, embracing all that lie between the opposite poles of Rationalism and Romanism. Do they love one another? Certainly not, if their organs of the press and the platform truly represent their feelings.

Dr. Kennedy presided, and—after a resolution moved by the Rev. Joseph Shaw, seconded by the Rev. J. M. Erskine, of the Presbyterian Church, Bow, in supporting Mr. Miall's motion for disestablishment as the only true solution of the politico-ecclesiastical problem—spoke some earnest words in putting it to the meeting. It was carried with six dissentients.

Dr. Edmond's lecture is one of the course now being delivered by various ministers of distinction on the educational and Church questions of the day, under the auspices of the London Nonconformist Committee. The Rev. Mr. Braden gave an admirable lecture a few days ago at Camberwell to a large audience on "The Bennett Judgment; a Plea for Disestablishment." Next week the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers will lecture in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and other lectures will follow. The Rev. Joseph Shaw, 13, Fleet-street, E.C., will be glad to furnish names of lecturers and subjects of lectures to ministers and others on application.

AN ASH-WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN LONDON.

(From the *Manchester Examiner*.)

Behind the Bank of England, in Tokenhouse-yard, there is a handsome building, known to the buying and selling world as "the Auction Mart." Here, to-day, at precisely the hour when the House of Commons was meeting, after its two hours' liberty, voted for the purpose of keeping Ash-Wednesday with due solemnity, a singular congregation had assembled. The service in which they were to take part was one of the "special services" connected with the Established Church. Perhaps on the principle that "the better the day the better the deed," this solemn festival of the Christian year was selected as a fitting one on which to offer at public auction two Church livings, with all their temporal advantages and spiritual responsibilities. This, then, was the special service we had met to witness. There were, of course, no clergymen present; they are always represented on such occasions by solemn-faced brokers in broadcloth—comfortable gentlemen, who are well accustomed to act as "go-betweens" in these mundane matters, and whose merit is that they can treat spiritual things from an earthly, pounds, shillings, and pence point of view. Sales of advowsons are, it is apparent, of every-week occurrence at the Auction Mart. As we wait the good pleasure of the auctioneer I pass the time in reading one of the many placards on the wall. It refers to a sale last week. The object of barter was an Essex rectory worth 600*l.* per annum, the advantages clustering round his reverence's position being seventy acres of fat glebe, a small population of 400, a capital house, and—here I quote the exact words—"capital hunting, fishing, and good society in the neighbourhood."

But service is going to begin. The clerk deposits various books on the half-pulpit and half-desk, and the venerable auctioneer rises solemnly, and prefaces his duty with that little familiar cough, without which no text could be complete. To our disgust, we have to wait while some vulgar lots of bricks and mortar away in Kensington are knocked down to the highest bidder. At length, however, the auctioneer unties his documents, and arranges, so to speak, the heads of his discourse. He calls attention to "a valuable advowson, with next presentation to the rectory of Dodbrooke, in a delightful part of South Devon near Kingsbridge." He offers it for sale, but before entering into details, he has to explain that the hook has been somewhat ovebaited. The advertisements have for weeks set forth that the present incumbent is sixty-eight years of age, but the gentleman himself, a day or two since, wrote to the auctioneer declaring he was only fifty-six. This had now to be stated, whereupon several members of the Auction-Mart congregation shook their heads. With this preliminary correction, the auctioneer catalogued the merits—the saleable merits—of his wares. After pointing out these good things, like a thorough man of business, he just threw in, as a makeweight, the observation that anyone who wished to make himself useful in this sphere of life might now do so cheaply; also he might have to wait a long time for preferment; and as if ashamed of himself of this little divergence from the regulation track, the auctioneer took up his hammer and twiddled it hastily, adding to what he had said, his assurance that the income was a remarkably safe one. But somehow there was no bid for the advowson of Dodbrooke. The congregation wanted a little more tickling, and they got it, for "Come, come, gentlemen," said the auctioneer, "only see what a fine percentage this is. What shall I say now? A thousand, nine hundred, eight hundred pounds." For several minutes no permission was given to say anything. At length some gentleman bid 70*l.*, and, very slowly, advances of 10*l.* brought the total to 830*l.* Here the auctioneer paused, and dilated upon the delightful county Devon was, and the small amount of work the purchaser of the advowson would have to do. Then the bids were dragging heavily till they stopped at 900*l.* The auctioneer again sermonised his hearers. "Whatever may occur," he said, "there must be compensation for vested interests. Why, you would have had to pay double for this chance in the old time. Who buys this property buys a certainty." But all this persuasion was of slight avail. By dint of much perseverance four more bids were elicited, the highest being 940*l.* The auctioneer shook his head, said it was "too great a sacrifice," and bought the advowson in for 1,000*l.* The cure of the handful of agricultural souls at Dodbrooke therefore remains at present as it was. In all the catalogues of sale there occurred this sentence, which I will not spoil by summarising:—

For the parish and neighbourhood afford excellent society, and the general state of Church feeling is good, there being but one Dissenting place of worship in the parish.

The most important portion of our Ash-Wednesday service was yet to come. The sale was now announced of "the valuable advowson, with next presentation to the rectory of Falmouth, yielding an income of about 1,700*l.* per annum," and what was better than all, an income that was yearly increasing. This time there was no mistake about the present occupier. The auctioneer, as in duty bound, made much of the age of the present rector. In fact, he rolled the old gentleman's "seventy-seven years" like a sweet morsel under his tongue. Pains were taken to prove that this was one of the most valuable Church preferments in the kingdom. It was shown that, as the port grows, so will grow the revenues of the fortunate rector. By an Act passed in the reign of the virtuous Charles II, a rate of sixteenpence in the pound is directed to be levied for the parson of Falmouth and his successors for ever on all houses, shops, workhouses, cellars, and outhouses then or thereafter to be built within the parish of Falmouth. The rector has also an interest in shipping dues. A comparative statement was produced by the auctioneer to show how, since 1865, the revenues have increased. It was made clear that the interests of Falmouth parish church are so bound up with the port that it is no misnomer to call it "the church of the people." One of the arguments used by the auctioneer was, that by purchasing this advowson a gentleman might achieve a social position which it generally requires much interest to obtain. He hinted that the town of Falmouth ought to seize the advantage of keeping the patronage in its own hands, as if the thought had just struck him; but still in an off-hand manner, as though it were not worth much, he observed, "If you bought this, you might give a curate a hundred or a hundred and fifty pounds." An assistant whispered him, and he added, "Oh yes, there is a chapel-of-ease, but it is self-supporting, and there will be no trouble about it. Whoever buys this, in fact, will have the whole clerical prerogative in Falmouth." Whether it was the ominous presence of Mr. Carvell Williams and other well-known Liberationists, I know not, but something unquestionably exercised a depressing influence upon this ecclesiastical bourse. Sums from 13,000*l.* to 8,000*l.* were in vain suggested. By-and-bye a bidder started with 750*l.* By tardy stages the sum of 8,000*l.* was

eventually reached. The reproaches, persuasions, arguments, and eloquence of the auctioneer—even another reference to the present rector's hoary age, could only, after all, extract the offer of 9,000*l.* The auctioneer then terminated the business by making a reserve bid on behalf of the owners.

Most of the congregation left the interesting ceremony under the conviction that this iniquitous traffic is becoming a drug in the market.

Knox Memorial.—On Thursday night, at a meeting held in Queen-street Hall, Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr. Nisbet presiding, it was unanimously agreed to erect in Edinburgh a colossal statue of John Knox on a granite pedestal, with appropriate bas-relief, at a cost of not less than 5,000*l.* A committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements. It was stated that 2,000*l.* had already been subscribed.

The Rev. Dr. Wallace.—On Thursday, at a meeting of the Established Presbytery of Edinburgh, a report was submitted in regard to the case of the Rev. Dr. Wallace. The report stated that offers of information supporting the fama against Dr. Wallace had been made to the committee, which rendered it imperative that they should continue to extend their inquiries. The committee asked to be empowered to communicate with Dr. Wallace in regard to the grounds of the fama. The Presbytery empowered the committee to communicate with Dr. Wallace, who expressed his willingness to meet the committee.

Archbishop Manning and Monsignor Mermillod.—The *Swiss Times* states that among the addresses of sympathy which Monsignor Mermillod has received since his banishment is one from Archbishop Manning. It is dated February 21, and after felicitating him on the grace accorded him by the Divine Master in recompense of his fidelity, Dr. Manning says "that not only the Catholic world, but the world of good sense, is indignant at the odious and ridiculous persecution of which you have been the happy object." Two things, he says, will follow it inevitably: the purification of the Church in Switzerland from all infection of mundane Catholicism, Old and Liberal, and the confusion of those unbelievers, rationalists, philosophers, and Calvinists who have honoured Monsignor Mermillod with their decrees and their gendarmes. "What a glorious struggle of the Vatican against the Cæsarism of the nineteenth century, for we were returning once more to paganism pure and simple, 'Dia Roma, lex Regia, Divus Cæsar.'"

The Friends and the Disestablishment Question.—At Newcastle Monthly Meeting, held the 12th ult., it may be of interest to our readers to learn that the following petition was agreed to be presented to Parliament:—

That your petitioners entirely and cordially agree with the terms of the motion, of which notice has been given for the coming session of Parliament, by Edward Miall, member for Bradford, namely, "That the establishment by law of the churches of England and Scotland involves a violation of religious equality; deprives these churches of the right of self-government; imposes on Parliament duties which it is incompetent to discharge; and is hurtful to the religious and political interests of the community, and therefore ought no longer to be maintained."

The Society of Friends has from its origin supported the principle upon which this motion is based, and we do therefore earnestly desire that the House of Commons may now affirm it, and afterwards carry it into effect by Act of Parliament.

Signed in behalf of and by the direction of the aforesaid meeting, W. H. Holmes, Clerk.

Other meetings would do well to follow the example here set them.—*British Friend for March.*

Anti-Ritualistic Society.—Owing to the decision in the Bennett case an Anti-Ritualistic Society has been formed amongst the Evangelical ministers of the Church of England. At the inaugural meeting recently held it was resolved—"That wherever sacerdotal doctrines and Romanising practices are forced upon unwilling parishioners, and no other means are at hand of worshipping according to the Protestant forms of the Church of England, it is desirable that they should unite together to secure for themselves, their children, and their dependents, the faithful preaching of the Word, together with the due use of the Common Prayer of the Church, until such time as it shall please God to restore to the parish the true ministry of the Word and Sacraments as taught in the Articles of the Church." It was strongly urged by Dr. Davis, and generally responded to by the meeting, that at the next general election the repression of Ritualism, and determined resistance to the encroachments of Romanism, should form a principal topic in the consideration of the claims of candidates for a seat in Parliament. —A memorial will be shortly presented to Bishop Ellicott, asking him to use his influence to suppress the great spread of Ritualism, and suggesting, among other means, the withdrawal of the licence of the curates assisting at certain churches not according with the views of the memorialists. It has received the signatures, among others, of the Dean of Bristol and Canon Girdlestone.

A Rock of Offence.—Having on several occasions devoted space to plead the cause of the Hospital Sunday movement, and its general adoption throughout the country, we feel justified in protesting against the very questionable paragraph now going the round of the press from the *Rock* newspaper. The paragraph is headed "Proportionate Gifts," and contains the relative amounts contributed by various religious bodies in a town where the movement has been recently started. Of course no one can gainsay what is so generally acknowledged, that in the United Kingdom the greatest amount of wealth lies amongst that portion of the community professing the faith of the Church of England; it is, therefore, to say the least, most uncharitable for the conductors of a leading paper belonging to that body to make invidious comparisons and give the percentages of voluntary offerings of the different bodies in a cause which is not, and cannot be, sectarian in its dispensations. Such comparisons can do no possible good, and much ill-feeling may be engendered thereby. We trust, therefore, that the objects of this excellent movement may not suffer, or the flow of charity be checked, by such narrow-minded paragraphs as that against which we feel it a duty to protest, and we look for the most liberal interpretation of our remarks to the conductors of all sections of the religious and lay press.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

The Recent Riotous Meeting at Exeter.—The Mayor of Exeter (Mr. C. J. Follett) has delivered a highly merited rebuke at the Exeter Guildhall to those who made themselves so conspicuous in the disturbance at the Liberation meeting at the Victoria Hall on Thursday night. His worship said that before the ordinary business was commenced he wished, with the approbation of his brother magistrates, to make some remarks, on this the first opportunity that presented itself, upon the disgraceful disturbance which had happened in the city since he was last on the bench. He regretted to be obliged to say that Exeter had been once more the scene of a shameful disturbance, almost approaching a riot. He did not wish to name or indicate the persons who created the disturbance. They themselves knew perfectly well who they were, but he would only entreat them—if they called themselves gentlemen, if they called themselves men, and if they had any sense of justice, decency, and fairness—not to be guilty of such conduct again. There was no heroism in such conduct. No person would look upon those guilty of it as heroes or gallant gentlemen, and he would therefore call upon them for their own sakes, and for the sake of the city whose reputation had become so sadly and so widely shaken, not to repeat the disgraceful events of the previous Thursday night. In conclusion, his worship stated that the magistrates were determined to put a stop to such proceedings, and if any persons were brought before them for offences of that nature, the punishment inflicted would be the severest the law would allow, without any alternative.

The Premier on Curates.—The following letter has been recently addressed by Mr. Gladstone to the hon. secretary of the Curates' Augmentation Fund:—"16, Downing-street, Whitehall. Rev. Sir,—My attention has been called to the effort which is about to be made for enlarging the pecuniary means of action now possessed by the Curates' Augmentation Fund, and I beg to offer a contribution of 50*l.* in aid of this effort. The labour of an intelligent and devoted curate is certainly among the cheapest descriptions of labour in the country; and even if at times, from a rapid growth of demand as compared with supply, there may be some tendency to an increase in the rate of remuneration for this valuable class of men, I cannot anticipate any considerable permanent change in that rate. It is always to be borne in mind, that while the immense growth of our commerce has produced a powerful upward movement in wages, the extension of education makes continued and large additions to the classes who compete for mental rather than manual employment, and that there is, therefore, much less likelihood—perhaps no likelihood at all—of their experiencing a similar advantage. I do not overlook the fact that motives far above the desire of temporal reward operate on very many of those who seek and obtain Holy Orders; but these motives do not obviate the social necessity of their having the means of at least decent support, or the obligation of others to assist them in obtaining it. I hope the rules of the fund may be found effectual for directing its aid into the proper quarters.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your faithful servant, W. E. Gladstone. The Rev. J. J. Halcombe."

Religious Equality in Ireland and in England.—It is imagined by some persons that we have attained all that we can possibly wish for, with respect to religious equality at the national Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, but any one who will compare the Government scheme respecting Irish University Education with the present condition of the two English Universities, will see how far we, as yet, are from the attainment of what even the present Government considers to be religious equality. There are to be neither Divinity nor Ecclesiastical professorships in the Irish University. Nay, so great is the care not to wound the remotest susceptibility of the Roman Catholics, that even modern history and mental and modern philosophy are excluded from the professorial programme. Look at Oxford in contrast to this! There all the most valuable professorships, without exception, averaging nearly 2,000*l.* a-year, are directly connected with the Established Church as such. The Regius Professor of Hebrew has always a canonry attached to his office; so has the Regius Professorship of Divinity; so has the Lady Margaret Professorship of Divinity; so has the Regius Professorship of Ecclesiastical History; and so has the Regius Professorship of Pastoral Theology. These five divinity professorships absorb between them about 10,000*l.* a-year, whilst another Professor of Exegesis takes a revenue accruing from 10,000*l.*, and a Septuagint Reader receives 75*l.* for one lecture. The Established Church has, in fact, absorbed every professorship of any great pecuniary value, for which seven professors receive nearly 11,000*l.* a-year; the whole of the others—Greek, Latin, Moral Philosophy, Logics, Astronomy, and everything else—receive between them only 3,300*l.* a-year, the highest salary being 600*l.* Can any one say why the Nonconformists of England should be treated worse than the Nonconformists of Ireland? Can any one say why religious equality should be established there, and denied to us here?—*Liberator.*

Religious and Denominational News.

LONDON CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday evening last week, at Pentonville-road Chapel. H. Wright, Esq., J.P., presided, and among those present were the Revs. W. Tyler, W. Grigsby, C. Chandler, J. H. Wilson, J. Smedmore, and J. De Kewer Williams; Messrs. A. J. Shepheard, I. Whitaker, J. T. Stanesby, C. G. Searle, and J. T. Beighton. After devotional exercises,

The Chairman in his opening address said that the society had now completed twenty-four years of its existence, and had been the means of doing a very vast amount of good, not only directly, but by the stimulus it has given to the erection of places of worship by other bodies. Who could tell how far the example of Mr. Morley and the society had operated in stirring up some rich men in the Wesleyan denomination to set on foot work which they were now busy in carrying out? During the last twenty-four years 103 chapels have been either built or enlarged, which provide seat accommodation for 91,700 persons. The cost of erecting those 103 chapels had been 430,450*l.*, of which 124,680*l.* had been received from the society in grants and loans. During the year three chapels have been opened—Barnet (New), Putney (Tarling-road), and Southwark-bridge-road (for preaching in Welsh). Five chapels are in course of erection—Burnt Ash-lane, Enfield Chase-side, Enfield Highway, Leyton, and South Norwood. With increased means, the society would be enabled to do a largely increased amount of good, and he trusted that an effort would be made to bring the matter in a prominent form before the denomination. The value of the society was not confined to the grants and loans which it made; the results of an experience of many years in chapel-building were freely placed at the disposal of individuals, many of whom were probably only called upon to take part in building one chapel in a lifetime. The receipts for the year, deducting balance at banker's at audit of year 1871, amounted to 5,305*l.* 16s. 2d., the expenditure had been 4,955*l.* 15s. 6d.

Mr. Beighton, the secretary, read the report, which announced that, notwithstanding special hindrances, arising from the agitations in the building trades, and the general rise in prices and wages, the past year had been one of progress in the work of chapel-building. There had been during the year six applications for the society's counsel without any request for assistance from its funds. The obligations of the society, consisting of promised grants and loans, amounted to no less a sum than 5,714*l.* 15s. The report alluded to the death of Mr. James Carter, one of the founders of the society, and Mr. Benjamin Smith, the chairman of the practical sub-committee. The report referred to the action of the society in connection with Barnet (New), Borough-road, Burnt Ash-lane, Croydon (South), Enfield Chase-side, Falcon-square, Norwood (South), Pentonville-road, Putney, Southwark-bridge-road, Stoke Newington (Abney), Stratford, Tabernacle, and Tottenham-court-road chapels. The report proceeded as follows:—

There are certain particulars presented in the statistics of religious accommodation recently published in the *Nonconformist* newspaper, not relating to controverted points, to which the committee would direct attention because of their special bearing on the work of chapel-building in London. To use the language of the compiler, these statistics show that "the deficiency of religious accommodation is by far the greatest in the largest centres of population." It is agreed that the estimate of the Registrar-General that provision should be made for 58 per cent. of the population is sound and reasonable. Examining the figures in the statistics referred to, it appears that in the first group of "thirty towns" enumerated, with a population varying from 20,000 to 50,000, the provision for the aggregate population of 1,055,507 is 50·2 per cent. Similarly in the group of "additional twenty towns" of a like size, the provision for the total population of 631,395 is 54·6 per cent, But when we come to the group consisting of "twenty towns," varying in population from 50,000 to 100,000, the religious accommodation for the total population of 1,439,816, is only 46·2 per cent., and when we reach the group of the "largest cities and boroughs"—consisting of fourteen towns with a minimum population of 100,000—there is for the aggregate population of 2,905,400 provision for only 36·5 per cent. It appears, therefore, that in the largest towns included there are twenty sittings per cent. fewer than in the smallest, and twenty-two fewer than the number (58 per cent.), fixed upon as the minimum required. But the statistics published by the *Nonconformist* in 1865, in reference to London, show that the deficiency reaches its climax here. At that date, for a population of 3,015,494, there was a deficiency of no less than 831,387 sittings—that is, the provision was at the rate of 20·4 per cent. In other words, twenty-eight more sittings of the fifty-eight were at that time required for every 100 of the population of the metropolis. The fact becomes the more serious when we find that, compared with the figures in the statistics obtained by the

Government in 1851, the proportion of the deficiency had largely increased. What, then, is the condition of things now? The society's sphere is the "police district" of London, containing a population of 3,883,092. Supposing the proportion of the deficiency not to have increased since 1865, and that therefore the accommodation is still 30·4 per cent., the deficiency at this moment reaches 1,071.734 sittings! In other words to supply within the society's sphere the minimum of religious accommodation required, there must at once be built 1,072 places of worship, each to accommodate 1,000 persons! But the society is the "London Congregational Chapel Building Society." Without passing antagonistic or depreciatory judgment on other denominations, your committee confidently assert that there is nowhere a guarantee for evangelical preaching, simple worship, and for freedom and activity of church-life, more complete and certain than is to be found in the erection of a Congregational chapel. It is therefore, a momentous question, What is the total accommodation provided by Congregationalists for the millions of the metropolis? Careful examination gives a return for the "police district" of London of about 240 chapels, and as many of these are in suburban hamlets an estimate of 750 sittings as the average accommodation of the 240 chapels seems a liberal one; so that there are only 180,000 sittings provided by Congregationalists for this population of nearly four millions! No appeal can be more forcible than that which lies in these figures. The committee are thankful beyond all words for the work—the immeasurably blessed and glorious work—which the society has been enabled to accomplish. 100 of the 240 chapels referred to belong more or less to such work; and, in addition, the society has been a chief power in inspiring and cherishing the spirit of chapel-building, both in the denomination and without it.

Rev. W. GRIGSBY, of Whitfield Tabernacle, at some length gave his personal experience of chapel-building.

Rev. J. DE KEWER WILLIAMS spoke on the continued necessity for chapel-building. He regretted that the subject was not one which largely excited the interest of a popular audience. It was said sometimes, "It is only a matter of bricks and mortar." But a chapel is the place of worship, where men meet to pray—where men meet that a man of God may preach to them, where prayers may go up for blessings from heaven. It is a Jacob's ladder set up on earth. Round the chapel, as a centre, are clustered many philanthropic agencies; for, in these days, we believe in everything that does good, and is not bad. Mr. Williams referred with pleasure to the fact that from the chapel in which they were then meeting ten young men had gone forth to study for the Christian ministry. They wished to extend that Gospel influence which would present such a record as that. London had been spoken of as the "million-peopled city." The population of this district was four millions; 384 are born and 265 die every day. The yearly increase, including immigrants, is 66,000. Not only were 1,000 more places of worship required to accommodate 58 per cent. of the population, but, over and above that, there was a continuous need of thirty new places of worship, to keep pace with this continued increase. The Congregationalists are, probably, one-fifth of the Protestant population, which would indicate a need of 200 new chapels to be provided by them. It would be highly desirable if this society could be provided with funds which would enable the committee to purchase chapel sites in all the new neighbourhoods, to be retained until it was found desirable to build. Mr. Williams, in conclusion, gave a cordial welcome to the Rev. C. Chandler, the new pastor of Pentonville-road Chapel, and predicted for him a career of much usefulness.

The proceedings were brought to a close with the doxology.

The Rev. Samuel Chisholm has accepted an invitation to become the pastor of the church at Spalding, and will terminate his pastorate at Bourne on the 23rd March.

The Rev. John Trist, late of Clitheroe, Lancashire, has accepted the pastorate of the Independent Chapel, Lynn, in response to a cordial and unanimous invitation from the church and congregation, and entered upon his duties on Sunday last.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The Rev. John Kennedy, D.D., of Stepney, will preach the annual sermon in connection with this society at Surrey Chapel, and the Rev. Thomas Jones, of Swansea, will preach to young men at Westminster Chapel. At the meeting at Exeter Hall, John Crossley, Esq., of Halifax, is to take the chair; and the Revs. Dr. Halley, C. H. Spurgeon, Evan Evans, of Carnarvon; F. E. Lawes, of Savage Island; and S. Macfarlane, of New Guinea, with others, are expected to be the speakers.

THE "SINGING PILGRIM."—On Thursday evening last, a musical *soirée* was held at the Sunday School Union, Old Bailey, London, to bid farewell to Mr. Philip Phillips, the "Singing Pilgrim," previously to his departure for America on the following day. Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., presided; and, during the course of the evening, a very valuable timepiece was presented to Mr. Phillips, in recognition of his valuable labours in conducting 100 services of sacred song in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Continental Sunday-school Mission.

EAST LONDON TABERNACLE.—The anniversary meeting of the opening of this chapel was held on Monday week under the presidency of Mr. J. A. Lund, in the absence of Dr. Brock. The chapel was built at a cost of more than 12,000*l*. Some three weeks since Mr. Brown issued to his people some forms of promise to bring in amounts to be individually named, payable on the anniversary day, as a thank-offering for spiritual mercies; and on Monday evening he was enabled to announce, to a congregation of about 1,700 persons, that these voluntary offerings amounted to 500*l*., which reduced the whole amount now remaining due upon the building to 2,000*l*. Mr. Brown, in making this gratifying intimation, expressed the great obligation which they were under to Mr. William Higgs, who had not only erected the building at prime cost, but had also given, from time to time, liberal pecuniary donations. An address was presented to Mr. Higgs, in recognition of these services. Mr. Brown mentioned that about 3,000 persons crowd the sanctuary every Sunday evening, and frequently hundreds are turned away whom they could not accommodate. The weekly offerings, independent of seat-rents, had produced in three years 1,007*l*. He mentioned that during the last twelve months he had been privileged to give the right hand of fellowship to 270 new members, most of whom had been gathered out of the world. The Rev. Dr. Kennedy and the Rev. E. Medley addressed the meeting.

NORWICH.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation connected with Princes-street Congregational Church, Norwich, was held on Thursday evening last, under the presidency of the pastor, the Rev. G. S. Barrett, when the following statement of the work of the past year was presented. During the year thirty-seven new members had been added to the church, and thirty had been removed by various causes from its fellowship, making the number of members in full communion with the church at the close of the year to be 422. The usual Bible-classes for children and adults had been held, the average attendance at the former having been twenty-seven and at the latter 145. A young men's discussion class had also met. Four Sunday-schools were in connection with the church, numbering together more than 900 scholars, and taught by nearly a hundred teachers. Two mission stations, at one of which a new chapel had recently been erected, had been worked by an evangelist maintained by the church. The voluntary contributions of the church and congregation for all purposes during the year had been 1,671*l*., making the total sum raised by free-will offerings during the past five years to be 9,800*l*. Various agencies for benevolent and missionary objects had also been maintained in operation. During the evening addresses, which were interspersed with anthems rendered by the choir, were delivered on the unity and work of the Church.

SHEFFIELD.—The Rev. Peter Whyte, who has accepted the pastorate of Queen-street church, Sheffield, vacant by the removal of the Rev. J. P. Gledstone to London, received a cordial recognition at a public meeting over which the Rev. Dr. Falding presided. The Rev. D. Loxton, as senior minister of the Congregational churches in the town, and the Rev. R. Green, on behalf of the Baptist brethren, expressed their fraternal sympathies with Mr. Whyte. Addresses were afterwards delivered on topics bearing upon the general state of religion in the country; the Rev. J. P. Gledstane, speaking on the question, "How to Commend Congregationalism," and taking occasion to express his admiration for the men who had appeared in the police-court rather than pay the education rate. The Rev. Alexander Hannay, in discussing the question, "What might be expected as the Spiritual Effect of the Disestablishment and the Disendowment of the Church?" said the parties represented by Dean Stanley, Mr. Bennett, and Dean Close are kept together at present by the bonds of the Establishment, and when those were removed they would have the finest succession of dissolving views the history of England ever met with. The High Ritualists might be expected to decline towards Rome; the Broad Church party, which believed very little more than many cultivated pagans believed before Christianity came, might absorb the Unitarians; while the Congregationalists, possibly, would swallow up the Evangelicals, or be swallowed up by them—it would not greatly matter which. The approaching separation of the Church from the State would give then a great revival of spiritual life in England. The Rev. R. Bruce, of Huddersfield, delivered an address in which he defended the proposition that "Religious Education is the duty of the Churches and not of the State."

LEEDS.—At Marshall-street Congregational Chapel, Leeds, interesting and well-attended services were held on Sunday, 23rd, and on Tuesday, 25th of February, in connection with the settlement of the Rev. W. Currie as the minister of the church and congregation. The Rev. Professor Charlton, M.A., principal of the Western College, Plymouth, attended as a deputation from the Congregational Union of South Devon, with which Mr. Currie was connected for the last nine or ten years, of whose executive and college committee he was a member. On the Sunday morning Professor Charlton preached to a large congregation from 1st Corinthians i. 3; in the evening the Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A., preached from the words, "The kingdom of God is within you." The services of Tuesday evening were preceded by a social tea by way of friendly welcome to the new minister, and notwithstanding the almost impassable condition of the streets through the severe snowstorm, the large school-room underneath the chapel could not accommodate the number who assembled for tea, and while a second company partook, from three to four hundred people retired to the chapel and listened to short and appropriate addresses by the Revs. H. Tarrant, Geo. Williams, H. Cross, of Knaresboro', and Professor Charlton, who in a pleasant and humorous address spoke of his knowledge and intercourse with Mr. Currie, and commended him to the confidence of his new friends. In the absence of Mr. R. Briggs, who was unable through indisposition to attend, the chair of the public meeting was taken by Mr. S. Thompson, one of the deacons. After various ministers had led the devotional services, letters of apology were read from a number of ministers and gentlemen who were unable to attend. Mr. Joseph Longfield then addressed the meeting, and told by what steps the church had been led to know Mr. Currie, and give him a cordial and unanimous invitation to become their pastor; he spoke feelingly and gracefully of the long and happy connection the Rev. J. H. Morgan had with them for twenty-eight years, until laid aside by affliction. Mr. H. Whitehead, one of the deputation who went to Plymouth to see Mr. Currie, addressed the meeting in a very concise and humorous speech, and the right hand of fellowship was extended by Mr. R. Pollard, one of the deacons. The new pastor, in a few words, and evidently touched by the kindness of his people, replied, asking their confidence and their prayers, and saying that his work was "the joy of his life"; a hymn was then sung, and the Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A., offered up prayer. The Rev. Professor Charlton then delivered a charge to the pastor, taking for his motto, 2nd Corinthians, chap. ii. 15, 16. The Rev. F. F. Thomas, of Harrogate, next addressed the church and congregation, and the Rev. E. R. Conder briefly welcomed Mr. Currie to the fellowship of the Leeds Congregational Churches. After votes of thanks to the ladies, the speakers, and the chairman, the meeting was brought to a close in the usual manner.

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE-ROAD.—The new Welsh Congregational Chapel in this road, which replaces the old dingy place of worship, was opened for Divine worship on Sunday week. Among the ministers who took part in the services were the Revs. Dr. Rees; W. Ambrose, of Portmadoc; R. Parry, of Llandudno, and others; and the congregations were large. On Monday the Rev. Newman Hall and the Rev. J. Davies preached. In the evening, Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., took the chair at a public meeting which, notwithstanding the roughness of the weather, was well attended. A statement was made by Mr. Thomas and Dr. Rees, which showed that the cost of the freehold had been 3,000*l*.; the contract for the building, 1,800*l*.; extras would swell the sum to about 2,000*l*. Toward this amount about half had been raised, leaving a debt of 1,500*l*. upon the freehold, and 1,000*l*. upon the building; the hope was expressed that some of the wealthier English churches would be induced to grant them a collection in liquidation of this large balance. Mr. Morley, after expressing his satisfaction with the building, and with the progress of affairs generally, urged upon all present the importance of increased spirituality of mind, and greater earnestness for the salvation of those around them. Henry Richard, Esq., M.P., in the course of his address, gave an interesting personal reminiscence. He came to London, he said, at eighteen years of age without letters of introduction, but with the vague hope of being introduced into a college somehow. He went to the Welsh Chapel in Jewin-street, and saw David Thomas, now of Bristol, then—like himself—a young man. Mr. Thomas introduced him to Mr. Wilson, of Highbury, who demurred to sanctioning his application for admission to the college until he had satisfactory letters from Wales; in due time these came, and when Mr. Wilson was next seen he said that the letters were very satisfactory, and as the committee met at his house that evening, if he came at seven o'clock they would hear him preach, and then decide. This, said Mr. Richard, to a young man who had never heard a sermon in the English tongue, much less tried to preach in it, was a trying ordeal; but in due time he went, and did his best, though he scarcely knew how he did it; and, after submitting to a cross-examination upon the sermon he had delivered, he was accepted as a student, and began his studies on the following Monday. He urged upon all the young men present fidelity to the Saviour, and congratulated all upon the completion of their important work. The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Revs. W. Ambrose, of Portmadoc, who had been a worshipper in the old chapel more than forty years before. Mr. Parry, of Llandudno, addressed the meeting in Welsh; an anthem was sung by a numerous choir, also in the native tongue of Wales; and then followed further addresses by the Revs. G. M. Murphy, R. Williams, J. Davies, and others; and, after a liberal collection, the meeting was brought to a close.

FROSTED PLANTS.—A writer in the *Gardeners' Magazine* gives some advice as to the treatment of frosted plants. He says:—First, get the plants away from the light as soon as possible, either by putting them on the floor of the house, or by covering the house or frame up with mats or other materials, or else by running them into another place where it is dull and free from frost. Second, use only at the first very cold water, which may be succeeded by some fresh from the pump or covered tank. Third, do not put a drop of water on the plants until the frost is removing from them or they are removed from the frosty air, the latter being the safest and most expeditious mode of recovering them. Persons unaware of the necessity for this last condition have suddenly deluged their plants with water, only to see them coated over in a few moments with a film of ice, and matters worse confounded. There is much more virtue in cold water than we are at all times willing to believe.

Imperial Parliament.

RAILWAY AMALGAMATION.

In the Commons on Thursday on the motion for the second reading of the Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, Mr. Hunt said he could see no superiority in the new tribunal it proposed to establish over the old one. To arbitrate between companies it might be of service, but then the companies, and not the public, should pay for it. Where the interests of the public and the shareholders conflicted, the tribunal would shrink from interfering, or, if it did interfere, there would be such an outcry as would soon bring it to an end. Sooner or later, Parliament would have to face the question of State purchase of railways. Mr. Pease and Mr. Miller thought it would be quite impossible to get a man of engineering experience, in whom the railways would have confidence, to act on the projected commission. Sir H. Croft enumerated several points on which he thought the tribunal ought to have larger powers. Mr. Walter and Mr. Stanhope supported the bill from personal discontent with the proceedings of particular railways. Mr. G. Bentinck said the bill was a feeble measure, although a step in the right direction. Mr. Dodson supported it because he believed that in the growing public opinion as to the monopoly of railways, it was well to try whether some satisfactory tribunal for arbitrating between the companies and the public could not be set to work. To the acquisition of railways by the State, he was strongly opposed on political grounds. After a reply from Mr. Fortescue the bill was read a second time.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.

The Commons on Thursday went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates.

For some time the discussion was most desultory, ranging over all the votes, and in a vein for the most part complimentary to Mr. Cardwell. Colonel Gilpin, Lord E. Cecil, Colonel North, Mr. M. Chambers, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. H. Samuelson, and Major Walker took part in it; but

Mr. W. Fowler gave a wider scope to the debate by moving, as an amendment, the reduction of the regular army by 10,000 men. In 1869, when the number was 127,000, the right hon. gentleman at the head of the War Department said, "With such a force, I venture to think this country may be considered perfectly safe both from attack and from menace." So strongly did the Government feel the truth of that remark that in the next year they reduced the force by more than 10,000 men, leaving the entire number about 115,000. Now, however, the gross number of the army at home and in the colonies was 128,968, and in India 62,924, making a total of 191,892. But they had at home, in addition, of effective militia, 129,000; of yeomanry, 13,000; of first and second-class reserves, 35,000; and of efficient volunteers, 160,750, making a grand total of 466,718. That seemed to him to be an enormous force, considering the position in which the affairs of the country now stood. (Hear, hear.) What was our position now as compared with that in which we were placed in 1870, when on an unfortunate afternoon, a rather excited House voted 20,000 additional troops? (Hear, hear.) A gigantic war was then being waged—now peace prevails. Instead of regarding France as our enemy we are negotiating a treaty of commerce with her. In 1870 a great cloud hung over our relations with America. Now that question is settled, and we have paid a very high price for having to settle. Again, last autumn there arose fears as to Russian designs in Central Asia. If he might judge by the correspondence before the House on the subject that scare had been got rid of; and even if it had not been, they had 63,000 English troops in India—a very considerable force for us to maintain. But it was said, "There is Germany. What may she not be going to do?" Well, if they were going to keep pace with Germany in military matters, they ought at once to vote a 6d. income-tax and double the strength of the army. We had no cause for anxiety now. There were now 40,000 more troops at home than England had at a time when Napoleon was just on the point of creating the invading force which afterwards, on the heights of Boulogne, produced so much alarm throughout the country. But we are told that the army must not be reduced because the influence and the honour of the empire must be maintained. Could our honour and influence depend upon our having 10,000 troops more or less. As Coleridge had said at a more dangerous period of our history,—

> Ocean, 'mid his uproar wild
> Speaks safety to his island child.

We were protected by a bulwark far stronger than any chain of fortifications in the world. Then, too, as we had lately seen, great armaments might entirely fail; while the influence of America was great, though she now had practically neither army nor navy. We must choose our policy—choose either to be strong in the consciousness of our own strength without meddling with other people, or double our armaments and add enormously to our income-tax. He asked the Government to go back to the position they took up in 1870, and to the number of men we had then. True courage was shown in confessing that we desired peace and did not desire more than the armaments which were absolutely necessary for our security. If we were conscious of our strength we should not be anxious to parade great military forces before the eyes of the world. Besides, the idea of anybody attacking us was simply absurd, while no one in England wanted to attack any other nation. We should never secure economy in this country unless we reduced the military estimates. Our Civil Service estimates must increase, no matter what committees sat to investigate them. The only effectual economy was by reducing the cost of our armaments. The right hon. gentleman might reply that there were difficulties in the way; but reductions had gone on continuously down to 1870, and why not revert to that point? We were in far less danger of attack than at that period, and both for reasons of policy and of finance he thought some reduction loudly called for.

Colonel Barttelot maintained that, until a real army reserve had been formed, to reduce the standing army would simply be to pave the way for another panic—a reaction and a sudden rush to increased estimates. What had happened to the present Government was an illustration of this process. They came in pledged to economy, and tried it, but circumstances were too strong for them, and they had been compelled to refill the ranks they had reduced, and to replace the stores they had allowed to sink down to a dangerous point. He denied that any case for reduction had been made out, and he challenged Mr. Fowler to point out how it could be effected.

Mr. Holms believed it was in the power of the Administration to pass those 10,000 men into the reserve if they choose to do so; and in doing it they would not only confer a boon on the 10,000 men, but save an enormous sum of money to the country. Even if they paid them 20*l.* per man, they would effect a large saving by the arrangement. They had 57,000 men over thirty years of age. Why, in the name of common sense, humanity, or morality, did they not allow 10,000 of them to go to their homes, taking good security that they would come back to them in time of need? That was the only road to true economy. If that 10,000 men were permitted to go into the reserve, an encouragement would be held out to men in the army not to desert. During the last ten years 33,578 had deserted, or an average of 3,300. Of that number, 19,729 did not "rejoin," but were apprehended and tried, or 58 per cent. The present state of things in the army in regard to desertions were most discreditable. From the *Police Gazette* it appeared that in 1872, 8,471 men were advertised for, and of these 818 were recruits not yet approved, so that 7,653 were men who had escaped. The reason for the difference between these figures and those of the right hon. gentleman was that it was not until a man had been absent five days that he was reported to the War Office and advertised in the *Police Gazette*, and if he returned within twenty-one days he was not regarded by the regiment as a deserter and tried by court-martial, but he was dealt with summarily. The evidence of dissatisfaction was that there were more than 7,000 men who did not desire to stay with their regiments, and therefore left them.

Mr. Brand, who took a general survey of the estimates, intimated that he held the militia and the militia reserves in much the same estimation, and looked to an increase in the pay of the soldier to prevent desertion. As a matter of economy solely, he was inclined to support Mr. Fowler's amendment; but, remembering that the safety of the country was at stake, he could not admit that a single man could be spared from the army.

Mr. Pease remarked that the saving on the army estimates, on which the right hon. gentleman congratulated himself, was counterbalanced by the increased expenditure on our naval force. A few years ago the Secretary for War boasted that he had saved upwards of 2,000,000*l.* on the army estimates, and he asked whether that reduction of expenditure was attended by a diminution of efficiency. Before the right hon. gentleman sat down he clearly proved his case that the efficiency of the army had not been diminished. The right hon. gentleman on that occasion told the House that the army was adequate for all purposes, and he spoke of the evil of having a large number of troops unemployed at home. On the breaking out of the Franco-German war a force of 145,000 was asked for. He (Mr. Pease) and many others protested against so large a force, and the Prime Minister explained that the then state of things required that we should have a large army. The estimates for 1870, it was said, were only transition estimates, but it would now appear that the transition was to go on while generations of men were passing away. (Hear.) Of what avail were the reorganisation of the army and the abolition of purchase if the expenditure on the army was not to be reduced? What was the use of a policy of arbitration if it was to be kept up by a policy of large military expenditure? Believing that it was a great evil to this country to maintain a large army in a time of peace, he would gladly vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Cambridge. ("Divide.")

Progress was then reported.

On Friday the debate was resumed. After some remarks from Sir John Pakington, Major Beaumont, and Sir Percy Herbert, Mr. Auberon Herbert made a vigorous attack on our military system generally, which he denounced as burdensome, inefficient, and immoral. Sir Wilfrid Lawson recalled attention to Mr. Fowler's proposal for the reduction of the number of men voted by 10,000, and said he should vote for it unless Mr. Cardwell would inform him against what enemy we were making preparations. Mr. Cardwell replied to his various critics, maintaining that the estimates were moderate, and in no way in excess of the legitimate needs of a great country like this. After some observations from other members, Mr. Fowler's amendment was rejected by 158 to 43 votes, and the vote of 128,968 men was agreed to, as were several other votes.

IRISH UNIVERSITY BILL.

On Monday the opening of the debate in the House of Commons on the Irish University Bill attracted a large audience. Before it commenced Mr. M. Henry gave notice of a third resolution to be moved at this stage, if circumstances permit, asking for a royal commission to inquire into the causes which have impeded the full success of University education in Ireland.

In moving the second reading of the bill,

Mr. Gladstone took the opportunity of describing several minor changes which he proposed to make in the bill, on the recommendation of persons of authority interested in University matters. At the suggestion of Queen's College, Cork, the power of affiliating new colleges will be vested in the Crown, acting on the inquiries and recommendation of the governing body. Complaints had been made of the insufficient provision for vested interests, but on this point Mr. Gladstone said the Government, and no doubt the House, would be disposed to act liberally both as to money and status. He described also changes introduced into the definition of persons *in statu pupillari*, and also in the powers of the council to divide students in arts into different branches for the purposes of examination, and then proceeded to reply by anticipation to the amendment about to be moved by Mr. Bourke. Admitting that the anxiety of the House to learn the constitution of the governing body was excusable, he asserted that what Mr. Bourke asked was impossible. It was contrary to all precedents—to the course taken on the English University Bills, on the Reform Bill of 1867, and the Irish Church Bill of 1870. It would be the wish of the Government to select men of the greatest weight to serve on the council without reference to their political opinions or to the course they might have taken in regard to this bill, but it would be impossible to ask such men to undertake the duty until the bill had made some way in committee. In truth, if they were willing to serve before they knew what shape the bill would take, they would not be fit for the position. That the refusal of the Government to take this course should be made the subject of a vote of censure, was a fact worthy of commemoration in Parliamentary history.

Mr. Bourke then moved as an amendment to the second reading a resolution expressing the regret of the House that the Government has not stated to the House the names of the twenty-eight ordinary members of the council. It was on the constitution of this council, Mr. Bourke argued, that it depended entirely whether the University should hereafter flourish or decay. Before handing over to this new body the power which had been exercised for three centuries by the University authorities, the House ought to know how that body was to be constituted. The precedents, he maintained, were entirely in his favour. The duties to be performed by the governing body were of the essence of the measure, and looking to some of the clauses of the bill, it might easily be imagined that there would be a difficulty in finding the "eminent men" spoken of by Mr. Gladstone to serve on the council. So that if Parliament did not proceed with caution it would turn out that the direction of University education would fall into the hands of men of inferior calibre. The House, he insisted, ought to know on what principle the council was to be formed—whether it was to be friendly to denominational or to mixed education—because these two forces could not possibly combine.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice, in seconding the resolution, characterised the speech of the Premier in which he brought forward his measure as one which drew the House and the country for some time into a mercurial trance. Gradually, however, they had awakened, and members had commenced to rub their eyes and see what they were about. He thoroughly supported the resolution before the House, and he had taken upon himself to second it rather than the bill should be read a second time without a word of protest coming from that (the Government) side of the House—as if the House were a Parliament at Paris rather than the English House of Commons. It was stated that a man with a great deal of imagination, after staring at a star for a long time, persuaded himself that he had seen a great comet; so also could the man who gazed upon a bush for a sufficiently long period persuade himself that he had seen a branch of the upas tree. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) And every one knew that if a man nursed a small grievance for a long time he might eventually persuade himself, and possibly his friends, that he was suffering under a gigantic grievance. Well, the right hon. gentleman at the head of Her Majesty's Government had in a similar manner convinced himself that there was a gigantic denominational grievance in Ireland, and had tried to persuade the House of it. The hon. gentleman reminded the House of the history of Galway College. It was founded in a time of great difficulty, and some years afterwards a rival establishment was set up, with the avowed object of thwarting its labours. It was called a "godless college"; but it held on to its path of

duty, and survived the imprecations of its spiritual enemies; and then the right hon. gentleman came forward, and emulated the conduct of one who is described in the noble lines of a poet as

> The man who sacrilege did to things divine,
> First robbed the relic, then defaced the shrine.

The right hon. gentleman proposed to blot out the college from the face of the country, and from the hearts of the people. He had started in his statement with a denominational grievance, and led the Roman Catholics to suppose that it would be removed. But the prelates did not seem prepared to swallow that dose. Very few, if any, of the students would be found to attend the professorial lectures. It came to this—that if they looked at the bill from a financial point of view, it would be seen that numerous endowments were to be established at a time when the students in their own colleges had a professorial staff. The right hon. gentleman had alluded to the precedent of an English University, and had told the House about the abolition of tests. He (the speaker) was delighted to hear of that, because he could not help remembering that, so far as tests were concerned, they would have been abolished some years ago if it had not been for the assiduity of Her Majesty's Government. (Laughter and cheers from the Opposition.) Then he talked about emancipating the University from college influence; but, with regard to this, he would ask the House to consider who the twenty-eight members of the council were to be. It was evident that the balance of secular power would be held by certain representatives of a certain denominational college. Next, there were the famous "gagging" clauses which the House would have to consider, under which a religious censorship would be exercised. Although there was a very laughable side to the question, there was also a very serious one. (Opposition cheers.) When he first saw the bill he said to himself, "What enemy of Ireland has done this?" Were those liberal measures which had been encouraged by university reformers to be tabooed, and their students debarred from a free exercise of thought? The right hon. gentleman evidently had forgotten the position of Ireland, and the facilities which had been given to students to attend Oxford and Cambridge. He believed that, if the bill was passed, the most noble and intellectual would leave the Irish and go to the English Universities. The Roman Catholics were evidently looking forward to the power and influence which the bill would give them; and, as far as he was concerned, he wished to state that he preferred the platform of the Roman Catholic prelates, as now put forward by themselves, to what it seemed to him would be the character of the bill. They asked for a charter and an endowment for their University, and, if they got that, they would be content to let secular Protestant education in the Queen's Colleges alone; but the bill would destroy Protestant education, and mixed education too, in order to give at a future time a monopoly of a second and inferior article to the Roman Catholic body. (Opposition cheers.) Everything would depend on the constitution of the council, and the risk certainly was immense. What they wanted was to have the names laid on the table, and, until their request had been complied with, he urged the House, in their absolute ignorance, not to vote for the second reading of the bill. They asked for justice, and nothing more nor less than justice would they accept. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. C. E. LEWIS (the new member for Londonderry) supported the resolution in an effective maiden speech. He also objected to the arithmetical arguments upon which Mr. Gladstone had built up his grievance, maintaining that Ireland was not so far behind in University education as was alleged, and that an improvement of intermediate education was the first thing needed to remedy whatever grievance there might be. So, also, he denied that the Queen's University and Colleges have comparatively failed, considering the constant agitation by which they had been assailed. Commenting on the constructive portions of the bill, he specially condemned the destruction of Galway College, the excision of Theology, Modern History, and Moral Philosophy from the course of study, and the mode of electing the collegiate members of the council. The affiliation of denominational colleges to an unsectarian University was an inadmissible anomaly, and he complained that no information had been given of the character of the colleges to be affiliated, and asked whether ecclesiastics were to be members of the governing body.

Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN had never seen a vote of censure—for the motion now before the House was nothing else—based on such narrow ground. The motion was a mere attempt to run away from the main issue, and the question upon which they were to decide was a larger one than had been raised by the hon. gentleman. In dealing with the bill they should remember that it was intended as a compromise, and it fulfilled one of the conditions of a compromise in satisfying nobody. He meant to support the bill upon the broad ground that it combined a just amount of concession and relief to the Roman Catholics with the strict maintenance of undenominational education. They were told that the Roman Catholic priests repudiated the bill. He did not attach much importance to that. If the Romish prelates had accepted the bill without any qualification, he should be led to suspect there was something lurking within it. He would be inclined to go as far as any man in granting justice and equality to Roman Catholics; but it was not justice and equality they wanted, but ascendancy. (Hear, hear.) He never would consent, and he trusted Irishmen would not consent, to have the standard of Irish University education dragged down to the level of Stonyhurst or Maynooth. Looking at the bill as it affected academical institutions in Ireland, it seemed to him that the University which had the least reason to complain was Trinity College, Dublin. (Hear, hear.) It kept four-fifths of its endowments; it had traditions of three hundred years, a revenue of 50,000*l.* a year, and magnificent fellowships, compared with which the prizes of Oxford and Cambridge were only a paltry pittance. And was it to be supposed that Trinity College, with such a career and such endowments, could not hold its own against the Roman Catholic University or Magee College? It seemed to him that the new colleges would not be unworthy of their elder sister, and that Trinity College would derive benefit from the healthy rivalry and competition between college and college; but, if the worst should happen, Trinity College would get something like a monopoly amounting to about 50,000*l.* a year, so that giving up 12,000*l.* a year was the best investment that Trinity College could make. He thought that something was to be said in defence of the Queen's College in Galway, which was the only fruit-bearing institution in a vast wilderness. He found that last year some sixty students had presented themselves, of whom more than one-half were Roman Catholics. Admitting that there were provisions in the bill which required amendment, what was the course which they should pursue with respect to it? If, by a combination of Conservatives and Roman Catholics, or by a coalition between the right hon. member for Buckinghamshire and the hon. member for Brighton, the bill should either be rejected or the majority be reduced so low that it would be hopeless to proceed any further with the bill, would such a result be creditable to the House? He believed that, with all its faults, the measure was a great one, and that, if they refrained from acting in a nagging, petty, carping spirit, they would succeed in carrying out a great reform.

The O'DONOGHUE opposed the bill, not for the benefits which it conferred on Episcopalians and Presbyterians, but because it did nothing for the Roman Catholics. The mixed system they never would accept—nothing would content them but a Catholic University to be the centre of Catholic education, and though on this occasion they might be outvoted by English and Scotch Liberal votes, their convictions and their demands would remain unaltered.

Lord R. MONTAGU was of opinion that the bill fell far short of Mr. Gladstone's speech, and failed altogether to meet the case. The majority of the people of Ireland would not be satisfied with it, but would continue to agitate for denominational education until Parliament complied with their demands.

Mr. FAWCETT, in opening his speech, said he should be able to prove that the measure would make the condition of University education in Ireland not more satisfactory, but more unsatisfactory; that it would introduce more evils than it would remove; and that it would utterly fail to touch the grievance as stated and understood by the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government. Never had a measure been rejected with more unanimity, and the reason was, that there was no principle carried out consistently in it—(Hear, hear)—for it was just one of those compromises on the give-and-take principle which, intended to please every one, ended by pleasing no one. The Roman Catholic prelates who had condemned it in such uncompromising language had been accused of being illogical and inconsistent, but he contended that they had always plainly stated what they wanted, and that if any one had been illogical and inconsistent, it was the Prime Minister himself; for, according to his statements, and to the provisions of the bill, he was bound to gratify the demands of the Roman Catholic prelates by giving them an adequate proportion of endowments to their educational institutions. Commenting on the accessory but still important portions of the bill, the hon. gentleman denounced the proposal to abolish the Queen's University as one condemned by all educational reformers and contrary to the experience of all other countries, for it was found that University education was most prosperous where there were most Universities, as in Germany and Scotland. He would warn Scotch members against supporting the Government in their proposal, for, if they did, in ten years time their four Universities would be amalgamated into one central board, politically nominated and under a political officer—possibly the Lord Advocate. Adverting to the healthy stimulus of the old Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and of the University of London on each other, the hon. gentleman went on to say that, indefensible as the proposition was to abolish the Queen's University, the proposal to abolish Queen's College, Galway, was infinitely more so. Referring to the positions attained by many men who had been educated there, he took exception to the argument of the Prime Minister founded on the estimated cost of the education of the students there, and denounced as a fallacy basing the argument on the numbers receiving degrees and not on the numbers taught. Comparing the 10,000*l.* income of the Galway College last year with the entry of seventy-five students, with Magdalen College, Oxford, having forty students and revenues of 40,000*l.* a-year, and Christ Church, Oxford, with its 70,000*l.* a-year, he said that if the arithmetical argument was pressed to a logical conclusion the right hon. gentleman would be landed in a very awkward result. (Hear, hear.) If the proposal of the Government was accepted, the existence of Queen's College, Cork, would not be worth a year's purchase, for there was a far stronger argument in favour of the abolition of that college than of Queen's College, Galway, if the number of students in arts was to be taken as the test of efficiency. The figures quoted by the right hon. gentleman to prove the decline in the Queen's colleges showed that up to 1865, they had been in a satisfactory state of progress. In 1865 Archbishop Cullen said that those parents and guardians who permitted their children to attend these colleges were unworthy of the sacraments of the Church and should be excluded from them. Dr. Derry, the Bishop of Clonfert, declared that those fathers and mothers who persisted in sending their children to receive this kind of education disregarded the warnings, entreaties and decisions of the Head of the Church, and that those who were guilty of such conduct should be deprived of the Holy Sacraments and the Eucharist. Was there ever a more cruel, cowardly, and inhuman denunciation ever uttered? (Cheers.) Why, this bishop could not have used stronger language if these parents had been sending a daughter to prostitution or a son to some sink of vice. (Hear, hear.) These denunciations showed that Parliament had not completely carried out the work of emancipation when it had struck off the fetters which prevented them from enjoying bodily freedom. This cruel and cowardly policy, he regretted to say, had been aided and abetted by a Liberal Government. (Hear.) Complaining bitterly of the refusal of the Prime Minister to state the names of the first council, or the principle on which it was to be constituted, the hon. member denied the pertinence of the precedents which the right hon. gentleman had quoted, and insisted on the necessity of their names being known on account of the vast powers they would possess in the new University, as compared with the councils of Oxford and Cambridge. The fact was, they were to be mere political nominees, and the most extraordinary provision was that the Chancellor of the new University was to be the Lord-Lieutenant.

What would hon. gentlemen say to a proposal that the English Universities should be presided over by some one who, by the exigencies of party or by faithful voting, had been made Home Secretary, or the First Commissioner of Works? (Laughter.) It might be said that the Lord-Lieutenant was not merely a political officer, but also a Court official; but would it improve matters or reconcile Oxford and Cambridge more to such an arrangement, if instead of being presided over by the Home Secretary or the First Commissioner of Works, they had for Chancellor the Lord Chamberlain? (Laughter.) The proposal was so monstrous as to be scarcely worthy of notice, did it not show the settled determination throughout the bill to shackle the new University with the degrading bonds of political subservience; and this experiment was to be tried in Ireland, which, of all other countries in the world, had suffered from the curse of political subservience.

Commenting on the fact that there was no check on the number of colleges which the council might affiliate, and that it might extend to all Roman Catholic seminaries both in Ireland, England, and Scotland, he said the inevitable effect of such affiliation would be to induce the authorities of the educational system to enter upon a rivalry of denominational views, and that the interests of higher education would be forgotten in order to obtain a denominational majority in the governing council of the University. The most extraordinary provisions in the bill were what he might term the gagging clauses, which enforced a degrading censorship on professors. If they excluded modern history and mental philosophy, what were they going to teach? ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) Why, under such a proposal they would render the teaching of the University a farce. Last week he gave a distinguished lecturer on Aristotle a copy of the bill, and his answer, after reading the clause in question, was, "If this clause were passed in this university, I could never give a lecture on Aristotle without breaking the law." (Cheers.)

If the House would excuse him for quoting his own individual experience he would add that it was absolutely impossible to lecture on political economy without referring to the events of modern history. Take up Adam Smith, glance over ten pages of that great author, and you would find that to teach political economy without referring to modern history made the subject a political farce. (Hear, hear.) Again, the professors were to be subjected to the most degrading censorship ever dreamt of. He did not like to be constantly referring to his own experience, but it happened that people could speak with greater force on matters which were within their own experience, and this must be his apology. He could frankly say that there was no position in life which he was ever likely to enjoy that he valued so much as the professorship he held at Cambridge. Now, if the Prime Minister could succeed in introducing these clauses into the English Universities he should feel that he could not conscientiously hold his professorship for a single hour. (Cheers.) He would not submit to the degradation. By way of illustration, he would suppose a Professor of Political Economy were lecturing on pauperism. This he could not do without referring to the history of the Poor Law, and he could not treat of that subject without referring to the indigence produced by the breaking up of the monastic institutions and rendering the Poor Law necessary. If, however, he referred to monastic institutions, a student would perhaps write and say, "If you refer to them again you will offend my religious convictions." ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) Now, would any man submit to be called before a University Council—not created by the University, but the creature of political nomination—and to subject himself, without power of appeal, to suspension or any other punishment the University might devise? But this was not all. Examinations would be reduced to an absolute farce, because it was said that

no student was to suffer any disadvantage for adopting in law, medicine, modern history, mental or moral philosophy, or any other branch of learning—he wondered why the previous enumeration was made—(laughter)—any theory in preference to the received theory. Of course, if there were any questions which a student could not answer he would say:—"I shall not answer that question, because I do not adopt that particular opinion." ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) For example, if a student were asked what was the 47th proposition of the First Book of Euclid, he might say, "I cannot answer the question, because I do not adopt the theory that the square of the hypothenuse is equal to the sum of the squares described on the other two sides of a right-angled triangle." (Renewed laughter.) This clause would remain a monument of the strange vagaries of distinguished statesmen. He would now call attention to the gagging clauses, and present them to the House in a very serious point of view. When he said to his hon. friends around him, "Surely you are never going to pass a bill by which the teaching of modern history, moral and mental philosophy, is prohibited, while a degrading censorship is imposed on teachers and examiners?" they all said:—"Oh, of course, the Government will drop those clauses." Yes, of course the Government would have to drop them! ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) But the Government could never repair the mischief which their very proposal had inflicted on the future of Irish education. Never, indeed, had there been a truer exemplification of the saying, "The evil that men do lives after them." (Hear, hear.) The House might reject the bill and repudiate these clauses, but henceforward every priest who desired to cramp and fetter the mind would be able to say, "This is not my opinion. I am not acting in obedience to orders from the Vatican. In telling you that you cannot go to an institution where modern history and philosophy are taught, I am not expressing my own opinion, but am simply giving effect to a policy which has received the sanction of an English Government and the approval of a Liberal Administration." (Loud cheers from the Opposition.)

He had never heard of a bill which was condemned with such an extraordinary concentration of opposition as this. The Catholic bishops and the Catholic students were the first to repudiate it, the University of Dublin condemned it, the Queen's Colleges objected to many of its main provisions, and the Nationalists said that the measure conclusively showed that an English Parliament could not legislate for Ireland. It was, however, supported by Magee College, which received students at the rate of one and a-half per annum! It was no use to say that those who opposed the bill and who held certain views with respect to University education in Ireland were the victims of a "No Popery" mania. Had not the Liberals always done what they could to admit Catholics to avail themselves of all the advantages of the English Universities, and to place them on an exact equality with every other member of the community? He objected to the second reading, and those who were going to vote for the principle of the bill with a view to its amendment would find themselves in an embarrassing position. He hoped the House would reject it on its merits without reference to the collateral issue of a Ministerial crisis—

What did a Ministerial crisis mean? If such a crisis should arise there would be either a resignation of the Government or a dissolution of Parliament, and it was easy to estimate what would happen when the same persons again returned to office in some succeeding year with principles reinvigorated and restored. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) If there were a dissolution, some hon. members might not return to that House; but if it was their lot to be defeated, they would only be anticipating their fate by a few months. (A laugh.) And would it not, he would ask, be infinitely better never to return to the House than to sanction a measure which would destroy an ancient and illustrious University, and set up in its place a corporation created by political nominees, which would impose on University teaching a censorship to which no man of independence would for one moment submit, which would endorse the principle that the events of modern history and the ideas of some of our greatest men could not be expounded without suggesting the miserable suspicion that the object which the teacher must have in view would be to promote some sectarian squabble, instead of developing the minds of his students and extending the range of thought? (Hear, hear.) He begged to thank the House for the patience with which it had listened to him, and he had in conclusion only to express an earnest hope that a measure would not be allowed to pass into law which, so far as University education was concerned, would, in a country already unhappily disturbed and distracted, unsettle everything without settling anything, annihilate much that was good and call into existence much that was bad, and which would, above all, in the brief but memorable words of the Roman Catholic students themselves, prove fatal to high culture. (Loud cheers.)

The Marquis of Hartington, speaking to the amendment, repeated that it was impossible to name the council at this moment, and derided the notion of passing a vote of censure on a Government or defeating a great measure on such a pretext. In drawing the bill, which the marquis next proceeded to discuss, the Government had adhered to the great principle of religious equality, and they had kept in view this other principle—that it was the province of a University, and not of a college, to grant degrees, and to impart the higher branches of education; and that the University should be perfectly independent. To this there were only two exceptions—the nominated council at the outset and the exclusion of certain subjects from University education. As to the last, the Government did not hold it out as an ornament to the scheme, but it had been put forward as one of the inducements to the Roman Catholics to accept the bill. No doubt the expressions of opinion in regard to the bill were not altogether favourable; but he denied that any condemnation had been passed on the bill by the Irish people. The chief difficulties of the question, Lord Hartington thought, proceeded from the exaggerated views taken by the different parties to the controversy. The Roman Catholics could not shake off the impression that sooner or later they would get an endowment from the State, and Trinity College thought she ought to retain the entire control of University education in Ireland. Here the Irish Secretary travelled through and answered the resolutions of the Senate of Dublin University, and pointed out to each of the parties concerned what they have to lose by rejecting the bill, and what they have to gain by passing it.

Sir M. Hicks Beach asked of what use was the bill if it did not meet the grievance of the only party complaining? But, notwithstanding the declaration of the Irish bishops, which he looked on as a deep political move, he could see that the bill was so skilfully drawn as to give them the entire control of the University and large endowments without wounding the susceptibility of the English and Scotch members.

On the motion of Mr. Horsman, the debate was adjourned until Thursday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Wednesday—Ash-Wednesday—the Commons met at two o'clock. Mr. Craufurd moved the second reading of his bill for the amending the Scotch Poor Law, one of the leading new principles being the adoption of union rating. Several Scotch members opposed the measure, and the second reading was lost by 181 to 48.

In the Lords on Thursday the Chelsea Water Works Bill came on for second reading. Lord Salisbury opened a sharp debate by a motion for the rejection of the measure, which was carried by 70 to 29 votes.

In the Commons on Thursday the bill promoted by the Metropolitan Board of Works for making an approach from Charing Cross to the Thames Embankment through Northumberland House was discussed. Lord Elcho moved that, instead of being referred to an ordinary select committee, it should be considered by a committee of nine members, five to be named by the House and four by the committee of selection. The motion was supported by Mr. Beresford Hope and Mr. Crawford. It was opposed by Colonel Hogg, Dr. Brewer, and Mr. Bonham-Carter. On division, it was rejected by 187 to 72 votes.

The Lord Chancellor has postponed his Court of Judicature Bill to March 11, in consequence of the absence of many of the law lords.

Mr. W. H. Smith will on Friday fortnight move an address to the Crown praying that Her Majesty would be graciously pleased to enter into no further treaty engagements which would have the effect of precluding this country from prohibiting the export of coal.

On Friday Mr. Macfie raised a debate on the relations at present subsisting and those which ought to subsist between this country and the colonies. He proposed that a select committee should be appointed to inquire into the subject, especially in its bearing upon the question of emigration, and the occupation of waste lands in the empire. He advocated the establishment of an imperial federation, and debated at length on the advantages he thought would be secured by the action of a federal council. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, on the part of the Government, opposed the appointment of a select committee. The colonists themselves resented discussions of the kind then going on, and he denied that Mr. Macfie in any way represented their views. Sir R. Torrens held that our relations with the colonies required consideration, owing to the changes made in international law by the Treaty of Washington. In the end, the motion was negatived without a division.

The Lords on Monday were occupied for some time in the discussion of a motion by Lord Stratheden, to the effect that certain treaties with Foreign Powers should be made conditionally on the approval of Parliament. It was resisted by Lord Granville and the Lord Chancellor amongst others, and was rejected.

On Monday Lord Enfield, in replying to Mr. Whitwell, stated that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, no government has yet been constituted in Spain which admits of recognition.

On the same day Mr. Goldsmid inquired whether the claims of American citizens to be paid under the Geneva award amount to only two millions and a-half, and if so, whether the Government of the United States proposed to return to the British Government the balance of the three millions and a-quarter awarded by the tribunal to meet such claims of private individuals. Mr. Gladstone, in answer, stated that under the Washington Treaty two courses were open to the arbitrators at Geneva—one of them was that the cases of damage or loss might have been examined separately and then referred to assessors for the determination of the particular amount due; the other was that a gross sum should be paid to the American Government, and, in the event of that being done, we had no power to look beyond or behind that sum. He apprehended that the decision of the tribunal in granting a gross sum was final, and that this country had no further concern with the matter.

The second reading of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, which is fixed for the 13th of March, will be opposed by Lord Stratheden and Earl Beauchamp, both of whom have intimated that they will move its rejection.

Correspondence.

SURREY CHAPEL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Sir,—Will you kindly correct an erroneous statement in your last issue? We have no intention of postponing our work, but hope to lay the foundation stone next June.

Permit me this opportunity of briefly referring to the special claims of Surrey Chapl, which I will leave to make their own appeal.

1. The lease being about to lapse, we lose all the buildings along with the land, without one farthing compensation.

2. The money bequeathed by Rowland Hill to meet these exigencies, amounting to about 8,000*l.*, was recently, by order of the Vice-Chancellor, paid over to Hackney College, as residuary legatee, owing to a legal flaw. Thus we may specially ask help from the promoters of academical training for Independent ministers.

3. The district every year becomes more impoverished, increasingly needing such institutions as ours, but less able to maintain them.

4. These institutions embrace seventeen Sunday-schools, with 6,000 children and 450 teachers; an evangelist with mission-hall; two city missionaries; 600*l.* distributed annually to the sick poor; a Bible nurse; fifty services every week for the poor of the district, besides services in the chapel; temperance meetings, lectures for working men, penny banks, clothing societies, &c., the annual cost being about 3,000*l.*, in addition to the maintenance of worship in Surrey Chapel. The great additional burden of obtaining new buildings is obviously too great for a congregation which has to strain every nerve to maintain its benevolent agencies, and to enlarge them with the increasing necessities of the district.

5. Surrey Chapel has always been at the service of the Christian Church in general; and its three pastors have preached in all parts of the kingdom.

6. It may be added that while, by its constitution, Surrey Chapel belongs to no denomination in particular, but claims fellowship with all, yet in fact it has had special relations with the churches and pastors of the Congregational order.

If Surrey Chapel has had not a mere local, but also a national character, it is hoped that help may not be limited to its own district, but that by the generous aid of many, the new "Christ Church" to perpetuate Surrey Chapel, and "Hanholme Hall," a memorial of Rowland Hill, may be opened free of debt. We wish to place 5,000*l.* on the foundation stone next June. Donations in aid will be thankfully acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Joy, Newington Causeway, or by

Yours faithfully,
NEWMAN HALL.

Surrey Parsonage, March 4, 1873.

NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

Sir,—At a meeting of Nonconformists, held at the Cannon-street Hotel a short time ago, I alluded to the want of interest felt by Nonconformist ministers in political questions; and I said that at a meeting held at Leeds, some time about the end of January, to petition for the repeal of the 25th Clause, only two Nonconformist ministers were present.

On this statement, a Nonconformist minister writes me as follows:—"At the meeting to which you referred two ministers took part in moving and seconding resolutions, and there were three or four other ministers to my knowledge present."

I find that two ministers who were present are amongst the most active political supporters of those who are seeking those political changes which the great bulk of Nonconformists desire. I should be sorry to do these gentlemen an injustice, and I most readily make this correction, and ask you to be kind enough to give it a place in your journal.

Yours truly,
R. M. CARTER.

Ebury-street, March 4, 1873.

New Coal Companies.—The coal famine has naturally stimulated the desire to open new mines for the production of the precious fuel. Amongst the new candidates for public favour is the Newport Abercarn Black Vein Steam Coal Company (Limited) the object of which is to acquire and work a valuable leasehold property known as the Celynen Estate, Abercarn, Monmouthshire, about 1,200 acres in extent, which is surrounded by some of the best-paying mineral properties of the district. According to the prospectus, which appears elsewhere, the quantity of coal in the taking is practically inexhaustible, and the property has been favourably reported upon by eminent mining engineers. The capital of this new undertaking is £150,000, which is offered to the public in 15,000 shares of £10 each. Other particulars of this new joint-stock scheme will be found in our advertising columns.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday, it was stated in the report of one of the committees that the total number of children within the cognisance of the visitors is now 364,735, as compared with 277,802 three months ago. There yet remain, however, 200,000 not yet properly accounted for. Of the total just given 215,822 are on the rolls of efficient schools, 65,204 inefficient, while 82,692 children attend no school at all. One or two quarters more must elapse before the whole of the children in the metropolis are scheduled. The total average of attendance in board schools during the last quarter was 20,753. The whole of these schools are reckoned as efficient. Several of the divisional representatives insisted that cheap schools were much wanted in the poorer districts of the metropolis, and it was urged that in some of the divisions the worst classes, whom it was above all necessary to reach, had never yet been touched by the board. The Rev. J. Rodgers, in moving the reception of the report, expressed his belief that the board could never carry out the Education Act efficiently until they exercised their compulsory powers energetically. After a long discussion, during which the necessity of establishing penny schools in all the poor districts of the metropolis was strongly urged by more than one of the speakers, the motion for the reception of the report was agreed to.

BIRMINGHAM—THE SCHOOL BOARD AND THE TOWN COUNCIL.—At the meeting of the school board on Tuesday, last week, the resolution of the town council requiring from the board an assurance that no part of the 13,500*l.* for which a precept had been issued by the board, should be applied to the payment of the fees of children attending denominational schools, was brought up for consideration. Mr. S. Lloyd moved that no such assurance should be given. The town council was bound to pay the money, leaving it to the Education Department and to public opinion to determine whether the school board spent the money according to law. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hopkins. An animated discussion took place as to whether the board had given a pledge last year that they would not pay fees in denominational schools. Mr. George Dawson and Mr. Chamberlain contended that such a pledge had been given, but some of the members of the majority contended that the board had not pledged itself, although two or three individual members of the majority had given private pledges for last year only. Mr. J. S. Wright moved the following amendment to Mr. Lloyd's resolution:—

> It having been announced that it is the intention of the Government to propose modifications in the Education Act, the chairman be authorised to inform the Town Clerk that this board does not propose to pay fees until, at all events, proposals of the Government are submitted to Parliament.

He held that the council represented the public better than did the school board, and the members of the board could not treat the opinions of the representatives of the ratepayers with disrespect. It was patent to all England—for it was announced in the Queen's Speech—that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to amend the Education Act; and there could be little doubt that the amendment would affect the point in contention, namely, the 25th clause. Mr. George Dawson seconded the amendment. The Rev. Canon O'Sullivan (Roman Catholic) having expressed his intention of voting for the resolution, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain said the school board could not get a mandamus till April, and till then they would be without funds. It was probable that the Queen's Bench would refuse a mandamus, because he was told that there never had been a case in which a mandamus had been granted where there was another remedy, and in this case the school board could be asked to collect the rate themselves. He hoped the majority of the board were not now going to treat themselves to a little persecution when it was too late to do any good. The amendment was rejected by 9 to 5 votes, and the original resolution carried. It remains to be seen what course the town council will now take; but as the majority of the council was 36 to 18 when it was determined to require the pledge, there is little doubt that they will not yield.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION ACT.—The first contested election under the new Scotch Education Act was held in the parish of Eastwood, near Glasgow, on Friday. An effort was made in the first instance to select candidates who would be acceptable to all classes of the community, and thus avoid the necessity of a poll. This attempt proved utterly unsuccessful, and ultimately forty-one candidates were nominated, the number of members required being only nine. Of the candidates proposed six were found disqualified, seventeen withdrew voluntarily, and eighteen went to the poll. A good deal of excitement prevailed in the parish on the subject of the election, but it was more of a personal than of a party character, though it is believed that ecclesiastical prejudices had a considerable influence on the result of the voting. The board elected consists of two landed proprietors, Sir William Stirling Maxwell, who is a member of the Scotch Education Board, and Mr. Crum, of Thornley Bank, two ministers of the Established Church of Scotland, a minister of the original Secession Church, a Roman Catholic clergyman, the provost of the burgh of Pollokshaws, which is included in the parish, and two medical men. Out of a constituency of 1,800 electors 1,429 voted; and of this number about one-fourth were ladies.

Epitome of News.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, arrived in London on Thursday, and drove to Buckingham Palace, where a diplomatic reception was held.

The Queen will stay at Windsor till Easter, when she will go to Osborne. About the beginning of May, it is stated, Her Majesty will pay a visit to Scotland.

On Thursday the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty, held a numerously-attended levée at St. James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales is now on a visit to the Duke of Rutland, at Belvoir Castle. His royal highness arrived at Grantham station last evening, and was presented with an address by the Corporation.

Prince Louis Napoleon visited Her Majesty yesterday at Windsor Castle.

Mr. Matthew Arnold has left England for the continent, proposing to spend some time in the South of France and in Italy.

The condition of Count Bernstoff, who a few days ago underwent the operation of "tapping," is reported to be much improved.

Baron Channell, who retired a few weeks since from the Court of Exchequer, died on Wednesday morning. The learned judge, who was nearly seventy years of age, was elevated to the Bench in 1857.

Mr. Gladstone, having been invited to attend a political gathering at Woolwich, has written to excuse himself from being present on the ground that he has a greater burden of business upon him every day than he can satisfactorily dispose of. The right hon. gentleman expresses his conviction that his constituents will understand, and favourably interpret, his stating that it was not in his power to attend the meeting.

Lord Lytton's will is dated November 25, 1869. The personalty is under 80,000*l.* The pecuniary bequests were numerous. The testator's son is sole executor. Dr. Lushington's personalty has been sworn under 100,000*l.*

Sir Titus Salt and Sir A. Fairbairn have each contributed 1,000*l.* towards establishing a college of science in Yorkshire.

The Navy Estimates were published on Wednesday. The total sum required to be voted for the year is 9,872,725*l.*; showing a net increase of 340,576*l.* as compared with last year. The augmentation is mainly due to the general rise in prices, and to increased votes for machinery and ships built by contract.

It has been decided that Richmond shall not be a military station. The final report of the Committee on Organisation states that Kingston has been preferred "on economical grounds."

Under the auspices of the Order of Good Templars, a concert, interspersed with addresses, was given on Wednesday night at the Victoria Theatre. The building was densely crowded. At the same time there was a similar demonstration of the South London Temperance Society at Astley's; the Rev. G. M. Murphy in the chair.

Further advances in the price of iron are reported from Staffordshire. At Wolverhampton the leading iron-merchants have issued circulars, in which an advance on bars, rods, and hoops of 20s., and on sheets of 40s. per ton, is announced.

At a meeting of the Mansion House Northfleet Committee on Friday, a letter was read from Earl Granville, stating that the Murillo being a foreign ship and beyond British jurisdiction, Her Majesty's Government have no power to detain her captain and crew, but that our Minister at Madrid has received assurance that the Spanish Government will spare no pains to investigate, and, if necessary, to apply due punishment to the guilty.

At Friday's meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, contracts for the purchase of Northumberland House and the other property required for making an approach from Charing-cross to the Victoria Embankment, at a cost of 525,000*l.*, were submitted and approved. It was stated that of this sum the ratepayers were likely to be recouped to the extent of 300,000*l.*

The directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce have sent a memorial to Mr. Lowe on the subject of the income-tax. The board believe that taxes which will tend to hamper and restrict trade ought to be repealed before the tax on incomes. They affirm that the principle of direct taxation is wise and sound, "and is capable of being extended so as justly to reach a class of the community who have hitherto escaped"; but they point out that there are grievances in connexion with assessment and surcharge which render the income-tax inequitable and obnoxious, and they suggest that the Government would do well to remove these sources of complaint.

Meetings are being held all over the country to support Mr. Plimsoll's motion for a Royal Commission to inquire into the state of the Merchant Shipping. On Wednesday evening there was one at Sheffield. A letter was read from Mr. Mundella, M.P., in which he said he had satisfied himself there was ample reason to justify the appointment of a Royal Commission, and that he intended to support Mr. Plimsoll's motion to that effect. The wide-spread sympathy with Mr. Plimsoll has led to the opening of the "Plimsoll Defence Fund," for which, at the instance of Sir Walter Farquhar, an account is opened at Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co. Sir Walter and his brother subscribe 100*l.* each. Mr. Plimsoll writes to the *Times* withdrawing the objections he entertained to receiving aid.

Sir Henry Rawlinson, lecturing on Friday night at the Royal Institution on the researches of Dr. Livingstone, said he did not think he was too sanguine in saying they were hopeful of Dr. Livingstone's success, and of his happy return, if not this year, by this time next year.

A reward of 500*l.* has been offered from the City Police-office for the apprehension of an American named Frederick Albert Warren, *alias* C. J. Horton, on a charge of forgery. The Bank of England and several firms in the City have been defrauded to a considerable extent. The securities, which are chiefly American, are of the value of nearly 50,000*l.*, and it is believed that the loss will mainly fall on the Bank of England.

On Saturday two bodies, supposed to be those of persons lost in the Northfleet, were washed ashore in the East Bay. They were buried in the parish churchyard at Lydd. It is thought that the action of the strong tides, together with the heavy winds which have prevailed during the past week, must have washed the bodies out of the sand. The diving cutters were in Dover Harbour all the week, the weather having been too rough to admit of diving operations.

There was a collision near the Mansion-house terminus of the Metropolitan District line on Saturday afternoon, but the passengers in the respective trains escaped without serious injury.

The spring season of the Royal Polytechnic Institution was inaugurated on Saturday with a new programme. Amongst the new subjects introduced the most important and most *apropos* was a lecture "On Fuel—what shall we burn?" by Mr. E. V. Gardiner.

About two o'clock on Saturday morning the sailing ship Chacabuco, while inward bound from San Francisco to Liverpool, came into collision, off the Great Ormeshead, with the steamer Torch, on her way from Liverpool to Dublin. The captain, the pilot, and twenty-two of the crew of the Chacabuco were drowned. Three of the crew, and the whole of those on board the Torch, with one exception, were rescued by the steam-tug Guiding Star, of Liverpool. A few hours afterwards the barque Boyne, of Scarborough, was totally wrecked at Mullion, Mount's Bay, in Cornwall. She was bound from Batavia to Falmouth for orders. Four hands were saved, but the captain and fourteen men were drowned.

The English authorities have applied to the Government of the United States to assist in discovering a large American sailing-ship which, between Copenhagen and Dantzic, ran down the British steamer Herald, and proceeded without rendering assistance. All on board the steamer perished, except one person, although many might have been rescued if the missing vessel had put out a boat. The United States Government have issued notices on the subject, but do not offer any reward for information leading to the identification of the vessel.

Great damage has again been done by the sea to the railway works at Dawlish.

At the half-yearly meeting of the London Tramways Company, on Thursday, Mr. W. Evans, the chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, mentioned that 967,000 miles had been run during the past six months. The expenses were 10½*d.* per mile, and this was as low as the cost of working any tramway in England.

Surprisingly heavy damages have been obtained at the Newcastle Assizes for a breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff was Miss Tindall, daughter of a Northumberland farmer, and the defendant Henry Short, a miller, farmer, and manufacturer, of Warren Hill, near Bedford. The jury gave a verdict for 2,000*l.*

The collections at Liverpool on Hospital Sunday this year amounted, within a few pounds, to 10,000*l.*

A petition for liquidation has been presented in the case of Messrs. J. Guedella and Co., merchants and colonial brokers, whose debts are estimated at 225,000*l.* A receiver to the estate has been appointed.

The sensation which Mr. Lizardi's case has produced in the City was considerably heightened on Saturday morning, when he failed to appear at the Mansion House. Mr. Lewis explained on behalf of his sureties, who had incurred a liability of 6,000*l.* apiece, that they had not learnt of his disappearance till the previous night, and that they were taking active steps for his re-arrest. The several solicitors who had been concerned in his defence stated that he had broken faith with them as well as with his sureties and the court. The Lord Mayor, in refusing to delay the estreatment of the recognisances, reflected sharply on the statement of Mr. Lizardi's counsel at the last hearing that "he had a most complete and thorough answer to the charge."

On Saturday afternoon the iron-cased frigate Raleigh, twenty-two guns, which has been built from the designs of Mr. E. J. Reed, C.B., was successfully launched from Chatham Dockyard.

Another advance of 2*l.* per ton in the price of iron is reported from Wolverhampton.

A New Orleans thief returned some abstracted clothing that proved too small for him, and wrote to the owner that he would wait for him to grow.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1873.

SUMMARY.

THERE has been an exciting week at Versailles. On Thursday last the report of the Committee of Thirty on the constitutional question, as modified to suit the views of the Government, was submitted to the National Assembly, and the debate was continued during the two succeeding days. Strong and passionate addresses were delivered by members of the Extreme Right and Left, which gave rise to some turbulent scenes. But the main interest of the debate was the speeches of MM. Gambetta and Dufaure. The Radical leader, in a tone of unusual moderation, declined to accept the Duc de Broglie's report, and opposed the continuance of a provisional *régime*, declaring that France requires the situation to be clearly stated, and that either a Republic or a Monarchy should be set up. On Saturday the Minister of Justice excited much sensation by stating that M. Thiers still adhered to the "Bordeaux Pact," reserving the question of the definitive form of Government, and declaring that the time had not come to change that policy. This apparent repudiation of the President's celebrated Message created much sensation, and many protests from the Left, but the large number of 499 members against 200 decided to proceed with the consideration of the report. Urged on all sides to declare his views, M. Thiers consented, and appeared in the tribune yesterday. His speech was ingenious, and met with general approbation. He declared that the Republic was not provisional, although definitive, and emphatically insisted that the Assembly was bound to dissolve after the liberation of the territory, which he hoped would come very soon. M. Thiers did not contradict the declaration made on Saturday by M. Dufaure, but on this occasion the applause came chiefly from the Centres. The preamble of the Bill was adopted by the Assembly by a vote substantially the same as that of Saturday, and there may now be expected to be a real truce between parties till after the liberation of French territory—the Monarchists contenting themselves with the knowledge that, though the Republic exists *de facto*, it has not been formally proclaimed.

Yesterday President Grant entered upon his second term of office, and sent the customary message to the new Congress, in which he engages to secure for the emancipated slaves those civil rights which are still denied them, to carry out a number of internal reforms, to maintain friendly relations with all neighbours and foreign countries, and to pursue a lenient and civilising policy towards the Indians who ought by proper teaching and treatment to be made useful subjects of the Commonwealth. Though favourable to the policy of an extension of territory, the President declares that in future he will not take the initiative, as in the case of San Domingo, but will be guided by the popular will. A good deal of enthusiasm was manifested at the inaugural ceremonies at Washington and when the re-elected President took the accustomed oaths; and General Grant enters upon another four years of office with the general confidence of his fellow-citizens, which, as he says, is ample compensation for the calumnies and slanders that have been so freely cast upon him.

The interest in the Parliamentary events of the week has centred in the Irish University Bill, which came on for second reading on Monday night under very inauspicious circumstances. The very slight modifications in the measure announced by Mr. Gladstone may be only the prelude of more extensive changes before the debate closes, or an indication that it is not worth while to make important concessions while the bill itself is in danger. Notwithstanding the adverse expression of opinion on Monday, which found strongest utterance from Mr. Fawcett, it is not likely that there will be any strictly party vote on the second reading, if there be any division at all. Mr. Dodson has given notice of a motion to refer the bill to a select committee after it has passed that stage. But it is impossible to forecast the issue of another two night's debate; though as all sections of the House desire some settlement of the question, and are not widely at issue, it ought not to be impossible to agree upon a satisfactory basis. We hope the Premier will not stiffly adhere to personal considerations. Failure in such a complicated question does not involve discredit, and it would not be first time that a Government had accepted the initiative of Parliament in framing its policy under special circumstances.

Both the Government and the House of Commons last night substantially accepted Mr. Plimsoll's much-needed proposal for the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the condition of and certain practices connected with the commercial marine—these practices including overloading, under-manning, flimsy shipbuilding, &c., which have cost the country thousands of lives. Public feeling has rarely been more unanimous in support of a Parliamentary inquiry; and we hope it will be thorough and searching.

The deplorable strike of colliers and iron-workers in South Wales seems to be really drawing to a close. In one establishment the men have returned to work on the masters terms—the 10 per cent reduction for three weeks to be followed by the old rate of wages. At Dowlais the ironworkers, disregarding the advice of their leaders, seem disposed to resume work on these terms, and their decision has been ratified by a large meeting amid enthusiastic cheers. The great difficulty has been to take the first step. That has now been done, and before the week is over this labour struggle will in all probability be terminated, and 60,000 men be able to resume their customary work.

RETRENCHMENT OF EXPENDITURE.

THE old Liberal policy of retrenchment seems to be falling into forgetfulness. It has for many years been apparent that there is no practical advantage in fighting over the estimates in detail, and Mr. Bright, Mr. Cobden, and others long since told us that the only method of ensuring a reduction of expenditure was to strike some millions off the aggregate amount, and leave the Government to cut down what items it pleased. But the fate of Mr. Vernon Harcourt's motion, which like Wolsey was "shipwrecked on success," and the rejection of Mr. W. Fowler's proposal for a reduction of the army by 10,000 men, have banished all present hope of any great diminution in the national expenditure. Mr. Fowler's motion was discussed during parts of two nights last week, and the House was thinner during a great part of the time than even when Indian Budgets are considered. On the second night of the discussion (Friday) when Sir John Pakington rose to continue the debate there were exactly ten members present, and Sir John had to wait till Mr. Cardwell made his appearance before he began his speech. The discussion then went on in a House as nearly empty as possible, till the rising of Mr. Cardwell showed that a division might be expected, and it was only then that the empty benches on both sides began to fill. When the division took place there were more than 200 members in the House, and Mr. Fowler got 43 votes for his proposal against 158 for the larger vote. The argument for reduction thus left, so far as the great bulk of the House was concerned, unheard and unanswered, was therefore merely voted down.

It is difficult to understand this entire indifference to the amount of the public expenditure. On both sides of the House there are loud professions of economy, but on neither side does there appear to be the least desire to practise it. The temptation of all Governments is to spend. The men in power, whoever they are, find demands made on them from all quarters—every department wanting to increase its expenditure; and it is so easy to yield and so hard to resist, that, unless some very strong motive is given, such resistance cannot be reckoned on. Thus year by year the Estimates swell out; the national burdens increase, and the House of Commons obediently votes whatever supplies the Government asks. Presently a Conservative Government comes into power, and the process goes on with accelerated speed. Then a Liberal Minister takes up the cry of retrenchment, tells the public that the expenditure has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished, and some diminution is effected under party pressure. But there is no chance for any real and permanent reduction in the votes till the constituencies make the question their own. There is hardly any other subject of popular interest which the House would as languidly discuss as it debated this motion of Mr. W. Fowler's. Members would have been afraid of their constituents. But where is the popular member who will ever have a hostile reminder of his absence or his vote on this occasion? The public mind is not roused on the subject. Everybody's business is nobody's business. There is a general impression that we spend too much, and every proposal for reduction in our enormous taxation meets with some popular favour; but the vague feeling never finds expression in definite action. What is needed is that the nation should be fully informed on the subject, and that the House should be made to feel it. We have just been paying the year's income-tax. The amount, as we now pay it in the lump, has probably a little startled most men, and made us all economists for the nonce. But we do nothing. We resolve to question our representative, and perhaps to ask him to vote against the income-tax, but the resolve leads to no action. "The flighty purpose never is o'ertook, except the deed go with it." And the flighty purpose of the British public to reduce the overgrown expenditure of the nation never is overtaken because the deed of reminding Liberal members of Liberal pledges never does go with it. The Deceased Wife's Sister Bill is carried every year because there is this pressure from without; Mr. W. Fowler's motion might have been carried if those who agreed with it in the constituencies had taken care to remind their representatives that their vote was scanned by critical and eager eyes.

There never was a time in our history when a policy of economy might more wisely be adopted. It is quite evident that of the great heads of our expenditure that under Mr. Cardwell's control is the one in which economy might most effectually be urged. The navy is so essential to our sense of security, to say nothing of supremacy, that it will probably nearly always get what it ask, except for costly experiments which end in failure. The interest of the debt is a fixed amount; while the increasing cost of all commodities and the continuous rise in the scale of living forbid the hope of any very great reductions in the Civil Service Estimates. But the army may and ought to be reduced, if only in pursuance of our traditional policy. The whole policy on which we have been accustomed

to proceed of late years rested on a vague fear of the revived Empire in France. When the Empire fell the present Ministry had just made the first steps in the reduction of our armaments. In 1868, Sir John Pakington asked for 136,650 men, about 1,500 fewer than Lords Russell and Palmerston had fixed in 1866. The year 1869 found the new Parliament and a new Government, and the vote was reduced by 10,000, so that the army for that year was 127,000 men. In 1870 a further reduction took place, and 115,000 men were voted. Then came the war between France and Germany, and the supplementary vote of 20,000 men one afternoon at the fag end of the session; and in 1871 Parliament voted 134,000 men. Last year the number was 133,000; and this year Mr. Cardwell asked for 128,968. We are therefore again treading with slow and halting steps the path of reduction. But Mr. W. Fowler and those who voted with him, think that a much larger reduction might have been effected. We had 115,000 men in 1870 when the war was still only a cloud gathering on the horizon. The cloud has now blown over, and has left a clear heaven. All Europe is at peace. The last danger that could threaten our "inviolate isle" has passed away. Even the most inveterate panic-mongers dare not venture to suggest the possibility of invasion. They made every effort to create a foolish agitation on the Central Asian question, but they have been obliged to confess that it has failed, and for a time at least "Othello's occupation's gone." The Government might therefore have reduced the army at least to the level of 1870, though Mr. Fowler proposed still to leave it some 3,000 above the number Mr. Cardwell thought to be sufficient then. His proposal ought therefore to have been accepted by the Government, and in resisting it they have missed an oppertunity of economy, of which we hope they and their supporters will be reminded in days to come.

Probably not many persons are aware of the real magnitude of our defensive forces. Mr. Fowler told the House of Commons that we now have 40,000 more troops at home than we had when Napoleon Bonaparte was gathering his great army on the heights of Boulogne for the invasion of England, which even he never dared to carry out. We have at home and in the colonies 128,968 men in the regular army, and in India 69,924. The yeomanry and militia are 128,000; the volunteers 160,750. The army and auxiliary forces are therefore 466,718—an enormous force for our present position, as Mr. Fowler said. There is, in fact, a tendency to become a great military power, which we may well contrast with President Grant's boast in his message to Congress yesterday, that the United States "support an army and a navy less in number than those of any European Power." We cordially admit that Mr. Cardwell is very efficiently organising these forces. He is probably doing it at less cost comparatively—that is with less waste—than it was ever done before, and we have every confidence in his willingness and ability to make the best of our resources. But what is needed is a vigorous public manifestation in favour of peace and retrenchment. When the people declare that their burdens must be diminished, and that they will no longer keep up a needless military establishment to feed some great people and be a toy for others, then and not till then will the Government take the lead in this great reform.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS CONTROVERSY.

THE Endowed Schools Commission has been followed by ill-fortune from the time it was appointed, and the evidence now being given by Mr. Roby before the House of Commons committee, is not likely to increase its popularity with some sections of the community. The narrower section of the Establishment party already accuse the Commissioners of being too fast in the way of remodelling old endowments, and appropriating them to other purposes than those designed by the "pious founder," but what will they say when they read Mr. Roby's evidence?

Mr. Roby, as our readers know, was, until recently, the secretary of the commission, and is now one of the commissioners. He can, therefore, speak with information and authority, and probably he interprets, in the main, the views of his colleagues. Complaint is made of the commission that it is sacrificing the interests of the Established Church and opening the way for non-sectarian or altogether secular education in many of the endowed schools. The Nonconformists have many complaints also against the commissioners, but they take the opposite direction, viz., that too much respect has been paid to the preposterous claims of the Established Church. We find Mr. Roby to be on our side. He expresses views as to endowments which have more than once been discussed in this journal, and which we hope, one of these days, to see carried into operation. Mr. Roby holds to the opinion that *the State-Church has no property of its own* whatever, and that its endowments were given for all Englishmen without any reservation. We need not say how often this principle has been defended in these columns; we are glad to see its suggested application to educational as well as ecclesiastical endowments. But Mr. Roby goes farther than this. He holds that after a certain time, no respect should be paid to founders' intentions in *any* endowments, and as we understand, he would limit this period to fifty years. For ourselves, we should be thankful to see this principle also carried into operation. The "dead-hand" of founders has rested with terrible weight upon the progress of the nation in many directions, and we see no reason why it should be left to rest there any longer. There is no natural right of endowment, and no natural right of any one to dispose of his property for ever to the real and practical injury of his successors. Society, or in other words, law, has given this right, but it can limit it or take it away with as much justice as it first conferred it.

The application of Mr. Roby's principles would save all the trouble in the world to the Endowed Schools Commissioners. Let it be once recognised that every endowment dating beyond a certain period may be utilised for the public benefit, and there would be an utter end of the miserable quarrelling over musty old founders' wills. No doubt this would give a great shock to such gentlemen as those who meet in the Convocation of York, and who exhibited their grievances at such length at their last sitting, but the shock would be got over, and the air would be wonderfully clearer than it is now of sectarian strife.

Let us see, very briefly, how this principle would operate. A pamphlet has been published called "The Endowed Schools Commission: Shall it be Continued?" The writer answers the question in a vigorous and peremptory negative; first because the commissioners have done so little, and secondly because they have done so much. Twenty-four settled schemes, as the present practical result of three years' work, and that work costing some 15,000*l.* a year, is certainly a ridiculous issue of the commissioners' labours. But why has so little been done? Mainly, we imagine, because of the interminable sectarian and other interests involved in the endowments, and the interminable controversies which arise when any attempt is made to adjust these interests to the condition of modern society. Once adopt the broad principle that these interests alone are to be considered, and that the Lady Dacres, Lady Hewleys, and all other pious but undoubtedly mistaken founders, have really had enough respect paid to their wishes, and it would be useless to cavil at and protest against small schemes involving the particular right of a Churchman or a Dissenter to a miserable foundation made two or three hundred years ago. The author of this pamphlet says that the only way to settle the present controversy is to send the commission about its business, not appoint another, and let things go on as they were going on in "the good old times"; but a better remedy even than that, if the remedy must be extreme, would be to extinguish at once every endowment in the kingdom. If these great but often injurious charities cannot be reformed, they must be abolished.

Another writer illustrates the present difficulty in a pamphlet entitled, "Nonconformists and their Rights as Citizens, especially in relation to the Endowed Schools Act." Here the case of the Nonconformists is stated with great clearness and vigour, and in our judgment, the case is made out. But the fact is, there ought to be neither Nonconformists nor Churchmen in this matter. The endowments, as Mr. Roby says, are for "all Englishmen." If the writer of this pamphlet had his way, they would be. The sectarianism is not on our side, but the histories given by "Vigilans" show how extremely difficult the work of the commission must be. At any rate it satisfies and has satisfied no one, and it is to be hoped that the result of the present committee of inquiry will be to establish it on wider and firmer bases, those bases being such as Mr. Roby has so boldly sketched.

THE SPANISH CRISIS.

THE news from Spain is very discouraging. It was, perhaps, the apprehension of what would follow, that so long deterred King Amadeus from withholding his abdication, and induced him vainly to contend with those disturbing forces which now threaten his adopted country with anarchy. Those grandees of Spain who could at the right moment have so materially assisted to consolidate his throne, but allowed their pique and jealousy of the foreigner to overmaster their patriotism, must now bitterly bewail a course which has proved dangerous alike to their country and themselves. The Spanish Republic has existed about three weeks. Though there have been no formidable insurrections, and the new order of things has not been seriously threatened, the whole country is overshadowed by the fears of impending calamity, the issue of which none can prognosticate.

The first decided symptom of the insecurity of the new *régime* was the change of Government which took place about ten days ago. When King Amadeus retired, the Republican leaders wisely decided to form as strong a composite Cabinet as was possible out of the materials at their command. Several conspicuous and able members of the preceding administration were included in the new Ministry. This, however, did not satisfy the ultra-Democrats and Federals of Madrid. They stirred up the populace of the capital, whose menacing attitude obliged the Cortes to choose a new Government, from which the Progressistas under the monarchy were excluded. The Spaniards, like the French, are intolerant of all compromises, and the politicians of Madrid interpret the doctrine of liberty as the ascendancy of their own particular faction. From the time of this untoward change, forced upon the Cortes by popular clamour, the authority of the Government has been growing weaker, and those classes of society who have much to lose and have not the courage to use the influence which they could command, are hastening away from a country threatened with convulsions.

In his eloquent memorandum to the representatives of Spain abroad, Senor Castelar justly remarks that the change which has taken place "was not a revolution but simply a necessary evolution." There was an interregnum, and the Cortes only exercised its legitimate power in decreeing the form of government, subject to the approval of the people. The late Foreign Minister—for he has already been transferred to another office, the Presidency of the Council—goes on to say:—"The Republic is beneficial; nobody contests its legality, and the civil and military authorities have spontaneously accepted it. The Conservative classes have recognised the necessity of the transformation. The clergy have avowed that they hoped to see their religious independence more secured by the right of association, and the army has welcomed the Republic with a fervent enthusiasm." A fortnight only has elapsed since these sentences were penned, but they no longer accurately describe the situation. The revolutionary element for awhile kept under is coming to the surface, and taking an active part in public affairs. The fear that the Spanish army, in accordance with its traditions, would proclaim a new Sovereign in spite of the Congress in session, is entirely dissipated. The army is in a state of insubordination. In many corps discipline is at an end. At Barcelona the soldiers fraternised with the mob, and were with difficulty prevented from proclaiming the Federal Republic. It has been difficult to induce the troops to go northwards to assist in putting down the Carlist rising. Whole companies disband, throw away their arms, and return to their homes. At Lerida, Valencia, and at Reus, as well as at Barcelona, the local authorities have been obliged to implore the soldiers to remain in service and obey their officers. No general of the Spanish army has sufficient authority to control the troops, and though Marshals Serrano and Concha have promised to place their swords at the service of the Republic, the offer has probably come too late to restore order among the military at a time when the officers are sending in their resignations by wholesale.

To meet this unexpected and unprecedented exigency the Government are organising Republican corps, and fifty battalions of volunteers have been formed to garrison the towns in the Basque Provinces, Catalonia, and Navarre, while the regular troops are employed to crush the insurgents. But at present General Pavia has made no progress in arresting the Carlist insurrection. The Carlist bands avoid engagements, break the railroads, exact heavy contributions from the small defenceless towns, make forced levies, and are now strong enough to concentrate their forces and threaten Bilbao and Pampeluna. In the northern provinces the struggle has assumed the dimensions of a civil war, and both belligerents are preparing for a long and desperate struggle.

It is possible that the peril to which the country is now exposed by the growing strength of Don Carlos, for whom the mass of the population have no sympathy, may restrain the revolutionary tendencies of the large towns, and induce Unitarian and Federal Republicans to lay aside their quarrels and unite against the common enemy. It is no longer a question of this or that form of Democratic Government, but of a return to absolutism and Church ascendancy.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

House of Commons, Tuesday.

A stranger in the gallery last Friday night on looking at the notice-paper would have read as follows:—"Mr. Macfie,—To call attention to the relations that subsist between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, and to move for a select committee to consider those relations, particularly as they affect the direction which emigration takes, and the occupation of waste lands within the empire." The stranger would, probably, have moralised upon this subject, and would have said to himself that it was a great relief after all to find that Parliament did intend to occupy itself with really imperial matters. Just above this notice was a question from an honourable member upon the subject of stopping teeth in the army—whether soldiers' teeth were properly plugged instead of being extracted—and following that was another question from another honourable member desirous to know why the Government had appointed a general practitioner and not a physician to take care of the health of the new Naval College. What rubbish is this! the stranger would have thought to himself, and would justly have thought so. The next thing will be a return showing the number of teeth successfully stopped, and of those extracted, and it will be printed at the expense of the country and distributed to the House universally. The stranger would have welcomed the disappearance of these interrogations, and would have inwardly rejoiced when Mr. Macfie rose, thinking that the House of Commons would now be seen at its best, in lofty debate upon loftiest policy, discussing the duties of the mother country to its offspring. How would he have been amazed and disappointed at what actually happened. Directly Mr. Macfie was seen to lift himself from his seat and address the Speaker, almost the whole House rose like a flock of crows when a man looks over the hedge, and moved towards the door. The members who were left, evidently remained for any reason rather than that they might listen to Mr. Macfie. Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, who had to reply to him, was certainly not absorbed by the thought of what he had to do. Mr. Gladstone, the only other occupant of the Treasury Bench, threw himself back after his usual fashion with his eyes closed and head turned towards the ceiling, asleep probably—that is to say, asleep after his fashion, for it is a question whether he ever sleeps after the manner of ordinary mortals. The front Opposition bench was altogether empty, and although there were one or two members on the benches below the gangway they were enjoying some joke, most likely at Mr. Macfie's expense, which amused them exceedingly. Once a member appeared really to attend to Mr. Macfie for a minute or two, but suddenly he took up his hat and departed, making it thereby clear that what seemed to be attention was but a fit of abstraction. The only sign that the least languid notice was taken of Mr. Macfie from beginning to end was when ever and anon as some new paragraph or division of his subject was commenced there rose a dull murmur like the uneasy groan of a sleeper affected with a nightmare. What could be the meaning of this disrespect? It was not, certainly, because Mr. Macfie is personally unpopular. A kinder-hearted, simpler soul never existed. Nor could it be for want of any enthusiasm on his part for his subject. He had a bundle of papers big enough almost for a wheelbarrow at his side, and as he got rid of them he strewed them in front of him and all around him till he was completely islanded by them. Furthermore he was at times raised to something like heat, and spoke with the fervour if not of inspiration at least of hobby-riding Nor was it because he was an intolerably bad speaker. He is rather fluent, and nothing like so disconnected as many an orator to whom the House listens attentively. The real secret of the House's indifference is that Mr. Macfie is considered to be a *bore*, and has been enrolled as such. When once a member has been marked as a bore his power is gone. It is a short word—bore—and one somewhat difficult to define, and yet what it connotes and what it denotes, to use Mr. Mill's logical terminology, are perfectly clear. It is a mistake altogether to suppose that a man is a bore because he takes to one subject and sticks to it. The greatest reputations have been made in the House by men of one subject. In fact, it is they who have accomplished our greatest reforms. Many of the most remarkable bores of our time have been rather miscellaneous in their tastes, andtheir miscellaneity has had something to do with making them bores. The Parliamentary bore is a person who is without sufficient magnetism in him to hold his audience, or who talks loosely and frequently upon subjects which he does not specially comprehend, or who talks upon subjects which are not specially interesting as subjects of the day. This subject of the Colonies, for example, although nobody denies its abstract importance, is not one that is uppermost now, and even if it were, would not be one to be dealt with by politicians of Mr. Macfie's calibre, but would require the life-long efforts of the greatest of statesmen. Another peculiarity of bores is that they can never be undeceived. The rudest shocks to the good opinion they have formed of themselves never disturb them, and never haunt them with the smallest suspicion of their true position. Mr. Macfie, I firmly believe, mistook some of the ironical cheers which greeted him for genuine expressions of approval. He indulged in an extraordinary metaphor—a comparison of the Colonial Office to a man with his hands in his pocket, and a pipe in his mouth, floating down a river—and when the House laughed, he evidently felt himself complimented. Once, poor man, he came to a climax, which was unfortunately an anti-climax, and the House mocked him with derisive applause, which he nevertheless not only accepted in good part, but which seemed slightly to intoxicate him, judging by the increased vigour of the sentences which followed. "What was the use of listening to Mr. Macfie?," the ingenuous reader may ask—"Why did you not go away?" Well, so I did, after a time, and the reason why I did not do so earlier was, partly, that up to Monday, nothing had been said in the House worth a word of comment, and, partly, that from Mr. Macfie lessons may be learnt. One is the very obvious lesson that a speaker must not select subjects at random, if he is to do any good to himself or other people with them—he must be drawn to them by natural affinity, and be perfectly sure of his own capacity to handle them. Another lesson is that nature deals very kindly with us, and is full of wonderful adaptations and compensations. To the creature which needs protection, she sends a tough hide. It would be of no use to clothe with self-ignorance, self-complacency, and a pachydermatous moral tissue, the wise man who never need fear contempt. But to her weaker children, who, if they were really to understand how they are appraised by the rest, and who would die of disgust if they could feel the arrows of scorn continuall y let fly at them, these she wraps all over in impenetrable mail, behind which the *ego* sits serenely, never aware even of the intent of the weapons used against it, or of the force with which they are hurled. Nature has a mind that the foolish shall live as well as the not-foolish, and how could this design of hers be accomplished if the skin of the foolish were not properly thickened?

Mr. Bright was again in his place last night, and his presence was a support to the Government of more consequence than a dozen speeches. Just after the questions were over, Mr. Gladstone rose amidst deepest silence to move the second reading of the bill. It had been whispered that the Government meant to make some important concessions, but the only alterations which he had to communicate were of second-rate magnitude, in no way touching the principle of the bill. He attacked by anticipation Mr. Bourke's motion, and did so with amazing vigour. In fact, anybody who heard him make that criticism heard him at his very best. As remarked in this column before, whenever Mr. Gladstone is polemical, whenever he has to fight for his life, he is admirable. Nobody can be more swift, more dexterous, more rapid, and deadly in his thrusts than he. Mr. Bourke was not particularly effective, albeit he was most ostentatiously adopted by the Conservatives, who cheered him greatly. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice made a deeper impression. This young gentleman is only twenty-seven years old, and, as most of my readers know, is brother to Lord Lansdowne. He bids fair to be an orator, and is perhaps destined by nature to be one. He has a tall, commanding figure, is good-looking, speaks with much fluency, and with arms constantly crossed, after the most approved models. His danger, perhaps, is a running to leafage, and not to flower and fruit, or to put it prosaically, a tendency to display and eloquence rather than to thought. However his friends, and Mr. Fawcett more particularly, accepted him cordially. That Mr. Fawcett was aggressive, incisive, and bitter need hardly be said to those who have taken the trouble to read him, or to those who have taken the trouble to understand his character, and who know that he can seldom forego an opportunity of saying a sharp thing at Mr. Gladstone's expense. His speech gave a good deal of pain, because it showed no consideration for the difficulties in which the Government is placed, and no desire to be conciliatory. The rumour in the House is that the Government will make further and larger alterations, and that there will be no struggle of any importance on Mr. Bourke's amendment. C.

THE LATE REV. DR. GUTHRIE.

The remains of Dr. Guthrie were interred on Friday afternoon in Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh, where also lie Hugh Miller, Principal Cunningham, Dr. Chalmers, and other Free Church worthies. Previous to the funeral, services were held in Newington Free and Grange United Presbyterian Churches. The body, enclosed in two coffins, the outer one of polished oak, was placed in an open catafalque drawn by four horses. The procession was arranged in the following order:—Boys and school of original Ragged School; boys of Industrial Brigade (in both of which institutions the Doctor took a great interest; Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of Free St. John's (at one time the Doctor's charge); Edinburgh and Leith United Presbyterian Presbytery; Edinburgh Free Presbytery; Principal, Professors, and Students of Free Church College; Lord Provost Cowan; Magistrates and Council of Edinburgh in official robes, and preceded by halberdiers; two High Constables of Edinburgh; mutes; the body, with pall-bearers, followed by numerous private carriages. The procession, about one mile in length, was witnessed by about 15,000 people. A wreath was laid on the coffin by a ragged-school boy, and a hymn was sung by children at the conclusion of the service at the grave.

The Duke of Argyll has, by desire of Her Majesty the Queen, sent a letter to the eldest son of Dr. Guthrie, expressing "to the bereaved widow and family of Dr. Guthrie Her Majesty's sincere sympathy with them, as well as Her Majesty's very true sorrow for the loss of one so good and so useful."

A sermon, in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Guthrie, was preached in the Marylebone Presbyterian Church, Upper George-street, last Sunday morning, by the Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D. The spacious church, with its two galleries, was crowded in every part, numbers standing in the aisles the whole of the service. After the introductory devotional service, Dr. Fraser took as his text the 5th and 6th verses of the 4th chapter of the 2nd epistle to Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"; and preached an eloquent discourse. After illustrating his text at some length, the preacher went on to say:—

There are good reasons why we speak more of the Master than of the servant, and of those spoken of in Holy Scripture rather than of those who live in these times. But there is no reason why we should not speak of such men as Luther, and of his convictions, and his death-bed, when he said, "O, Holy Father, though I am poor, out of this bed I shall go to live with Thee eternally," or of Knox, who, feeling his death approaching, sent for the elders of the church in Edinburgh, and said, "The time approaches for which I have long hoped when I shall be released from all my cares, and shall be with Christ my saviour." The Church of God in Great Britain has had and has lost during our lifetime many good servants of Christ. I have said the Church of God in Great Britain. We make no distinction between different sects. We never ask when we see a mountain in whose parish it is. So we need not ask as to what denomination a good Christian belongs. We all felt the deaths of Venn and Dean Ramsay, not because they were great men, but because they were good men. We all felt, too, the death of Baptist Noel, and this day we mourn the passing of one whose fame had gone round the world. One of the truest Christians, and one of the most large-hearted. I do not propose at this time to enter upon any estimate of his career, feeling that this is not the time or place to do so. Born at Brechin in 1803, Thomas Guthrie was educated for the service of the Church of Scotland, but had to wait some years before he was ordained minister of Arbilot, near Arbroath. Some years after he was presented to the Greyfriars' Church in Edinburgh, where he at once took rank as a preacher, and was listened to by some of the first minds of the day who were to be found amongst his congregation. But not only the rich and the learned, but the poor also met in his church. In those days all the leading Scotch divines were engaged in that conflict known as "the ten years' conflict." His *forte* was to address the people, and his appeals at that time had great effect on them. He preached in St. John's Church in Edinburgh for many years, and he there thoroughly trained himself for his work, preaching only one sermon a week, but preparing it with great care. No one who heard him could ever forget the tone of his voice, the wealth and variety of his illustrations, and the pathos which

overpowered his audience. But he never forgot to preach Jesus Christ. Although he was little of an ecclesiastic, he did lasting service to the Free Church, by which he will be long remembered. Those comfortable manses which the ministers of that Church now enjoy were chiefly erected by his efforts. He was mainly instrumental in raising 100,000*l.* for that purpose, and it was in that labour that he contracted the heart disease from which he so long suffered. The world has heard of him as a great philanthropist—and so he was. Though not the founder of ragged-schools, he did much by his efforts and by his "Plea for ragged schools" to found them. Nine years ago he was obliged to retire from public life, and since then he appeared but seldom. During the cotton famine he delivered a public address characterised by all his wonted energy; and latterly in London drawing-rooms he had frequently urged the claims of the Waldensians. When he could not speak, he used his pen, and his works have had a large circulation. But the man himself was more than any number of speeches or books. He had a singularly powerful personality. Rich in conversational faculties, his speech was pithy and enlivened by an abundance of anecdotes and illustrations, making him a choice companion. There was a fine breeze of nature about him, while all the time the Spirit of God was seen to be actuating him. He was not a scholarly man, but he was well informed. He was not a man of great reasoning powers, but he had a keen sagacity. The liberality of tone which made for him so many friends was not of that cheap order which abounds, and which is so very easy to men who have no certain convictions in their minds. He was a distinct Evangelical Protestant Christian, but carried everywhere a genial, loving spirit, which beheld goodness wherever he could find it. And he is gone! A man to be missed in a day like this, when we have men of little fame and little liberality, and when a man of large liberality and strong sympathies is much needed in the Church. But the Lord who knows best appointed the time of his departure. At St. Leonard's a week ago, the loving friend was surrounded by loving friends; the lover of little children had a little child to sing to him what he called the "bairns' hymns," "Gentle Jesus" and "There is a Happy Land." The Catholic Christian had good Christians of different denominations to pray with him, and the good pastor passed to his Saviour with a calm and easy mind, for he had "fought a good fight, he had finished his course, he had kept the faith."

At the close of the sermon, which was listened to with great attention, the hymn, "For ever with the Lord," was sung, and the large assembly separated.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S CHOIR.

The eighteenth annual season of Mr. Leslie's concerts commenced on Thursday last at St. James's Hall. There was as usual a crowded attendance and a well-selected programme, consisting for the most part of choral pieces, interspersed with solos by Madame Patey, Mdlle. Nita Gaetano, and Mr. W. H. Cummings, and preceded by the National Anthem. The first part abounded in choice Italian madrigals, which were thoroughly appreciated by the audience, and many of them were encored. They were sung by the choir with that expression, refinement, and finish for which they have long been celebrated. It was the perfection of unaccompanied part-singing. The second part consisted of selections from the English school, including Wesley's masterly motett, "In Exitu Israel," which has for some time been a favourite at these concerts; Mr. Leslie's popular trio, "O Memory," given by the three solo singers, and re-demanded; and several English madrigals. There were besides two new part-songs by Mr. Walter Macfarren, "Lovers Parting" and "Shepherds All," which were very cordially received, and Sir Sterndale Bennett's expressive part-song, "Come, live with me." A special feature of the evening's entertainment was the finished performances on the violin by Mr. Henry Holmes, whose easy and brilliant execution elicited much applause. Mr. Leslie's choir have begun the season very auspiciously. At the second concert, on March 27, they will be reinforced by Mr. Sims Reeves and Mr. Santley, and the programme of the three remaining concerts gives promise of a great treat to all who enjoy part-singing rendered with unsurpassed excellence and purity.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is announced that passports between France and Switzerland have been abolished.

King Amadeus and his consort have sailed from Lisbon for Italy.

A Melbourne telegram states that Mr. Michie has been appointed Agent-General in London for the colony of Victoria.

The Belgian bishops fulminate in their Lent pastorals against what they call "the bad press," and enjoin the faithful to encourage and support by all possible means "the good press."

A telegram from Washington states that Mr. Alexander Stevens, who, it will be recollected, was formerly Vice-President of the Southern Confederacy, has been elected a member of Congress for Georgia.

The American House of Representatives have decided not to expel the members Ames and Brooks. This resolution was carried by 115 to 110 votes. Votes of censure on both members were carried by large majorities.

A New York telegram to the *Daily News* says that the bill to carry into effect the portion of the Treaty of Washington relating to the fisheries has now passed both Houses of Congress after a strong personal solicitation on the part of the President, and is to take effect on July 1.

The Paris correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* attributes to the Pope the following remark:—"The Count of Chambord is mistaken when he speaks of unalterable principles in politics. Unalterable principles exist only in religion. Politics live by concessions and compromises."

It is announced from Cadiz that seven of the crew of the Murillo have been released, but that the rest, together with the master, remain in custody. The vessel is still detained, and the examination continues.

FATHER HYACINTHE.—A Reuter's telegram under date Paris, March 4, says that at the request of 300 Catholics, Father Hyacinthe Loyson is going to preach at Geneva. The letter of Father Hyacinthe says that he will preach to those who are resolved not to surrender either to Ultramontanism or unbelief.

COALS IN AMERICA.—There are 15,000 square miles of coalfields in which Pittsburg is interested, and $15,000,000 of Pittsburg capital is investe therein. Probable $25,000,000 more is invested in transportation, and the total of all interests dependent upon these coalfields cannot fall short of the enormous sum of $100,000,000.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* telegraphs that the German Government will propose to the German Parliament the transfer of the keeping of the registers of births, marriages, and deaths to the civil authorities; that the Liberal party will propose the introduction of civil marriage; and that both reforms will probably be adopted. The Government will also propose the abolition of the special jurisdiction exercised till now by the German Universities.

CHURCH AND STATE IN GERMANY.—In the second discussion of the bill altering clauses 15 and 18 of the Constitution, the Chamber of Deputies read the bill for the third time, and the final vote on the entire bill was adopted by 228 against 108 votes, each member recording his vote by name.

THE FRENCH ELECTORAL LAW.—The principal points of the new French Electoral law approved by the Government, are, it is stated, to be the abolition of the *scrutin de liste*; one deputy for every 75,000 souls, and the fixing for the electoral circumscriptions by the Council-General. The deputy's duration of office will be six years. Manhood suffrage is maintained, and there is to be a triennial general election. Two years' domicile is required to qualify a voter.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.—Congress has finally voted the amendment of the Constitution by which the salaries of the President, Vice-President, and Judges of the United States are increased, and those of the members of Congress fixed at 6,500 dols. Congress has also ordered the recovery of the moneys overpaid to the Credit Mobilier by the Union Pacific Railroad. All the Appropriation Bills have been passed. The Geneva Award Bill, however, has failed in consequence of a disagreement arising as to the method of distribution, and it has therefore been postponed until the next Congress. The majority of the Investigation Committee report the charges of bribery brought against Senator Pomeroy unproved.

CHURCH AND STATE IN SWITZERLAND.—A very numerously-attended meeting of the National Catholic party was held at Geneva on Monday evening, when it was decided to protest, before the Federal Council and the Council of Estates, against the demonstration at Ferney after the arrival of Monsignor Mermillod. The vicar of the Hospital Church at Constance having refused to comply with the recommendation of the Carlsruhe Government, and allow a joint use of that edifice by the Old Catholics, the local authorities took possession of it on Thursday afternoon, and formally made it over to the Old Catholic congregation for their sole use until such time as the recusant parish priest should submit. Professor Michelis was summoned to open the Old Catholic services.

A REVELATION OF THE WAR OF 1870.—The other day Herr von Varnbuler, late Wurtemberg Minister of Foreign Affairs, on standing candidate for a seat in the local Parliament of his State, had to undergo a searching examination as to his conduct in the July of the eventful year. The answer given by him was not a little startling. If, he said, Wurtemberg was the last of the German States to declare war against France, this was done in accordance with an understanding with Prince Bismarck, who wished to prolong, for a few days, the hopes of Napoleon III. that a portion of Germany would join him in his venturesome enterprise. It was this hope which induced the French Emperor to keep General Douai at Belfort when he was wanted at Woerth; in other words, it was this anticipation which led Napoleon to expect that his southern forces would be enabled to establish themselves in the Black Forest, while the rest were fighting at the foot of the Vosges. What a disclosure to come out now at the top of all the rest!

THE RUSSIAN CHURCH IN JAPAN.—The *Cronstadt Gazette* notices the spreading of the Russian Orthodox creed in Japan. A former bonze, Paul Sarvate, is one of its most active apostles. In Hakodadi there is a Russian church, in which Divine service is held in Japanese. The Bishop of Kamtschatka received during his presence in Hakodadi ninety-five Japanese into the communion of the Church, and 500 persons demanded baptism. As the law promulgated 200 years ago which forbids the embracing of Christianity is not yet abolished, the Government of Japan has taken measures against the neophytes, imprisoned all catechists, and dismissed all officials who had become Christians. In Nipon, which is situated in the, to Europeans, inaccessible district of Sendai, 120 Christians were brought before the courts. Notwithstanding these persecutions, the spread of Christianity, especially of the Russian communion, is continually increasing in Japan. To the energetic efforts of the Russian Consul at Hakodadi it is due that the Japanese Government has restored to liberty the imprisoned Christians, and will henceforth take no action against the Japanese converted by the Russian mission.

SENOR FIGUERAS.—The special correspondent of the *Daily News* has "interviewed" Senor Figueras, President of the Spanish Republic, and although he does not appear to have succeeded in "drawing" the great Republican out, he has sketched his personal appearance for the benefit of English readers. Figueras' face, he says, "is indicative of great earnestness, but wants the appearance of energy, and softens at times into an expression of plaintiveness. He speaks with great frankness, and, unlike Castelar, does not give one the idea of straining after effect. In health he is far from robust; during the night, he said, he had been spitting blood, and the labour which his position enforces prevents his enjoying the rest which the delicacy of his health demands." He informed the correspondent that the Government were determined to deal promptly with the Carlists. He spoke hopefully of the establishment of a Republican form of Government, and "of himself he spoke with a diffidence which was manifestly sincere. He was not destitute, he said, of the legislative faculty, and had the belief that he would be far from the least useful member in a Constitutional Parliament. But he felt his lack of the governing faculty, especially in critical times. 'I have not iron enough in me to be a strong ruler in troublous times,' was his remark, with a sigh in which there seemed something akin to despondency.'

AN EMINENT FRENCHMAN ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION.—An eminent Frenchman, M. Charles Lucas, member of the Institute of France, and formerly Chairman of the Directors of French Prisons, has recently read before the Institute an able paper entitled, "The Necessity for an International Congress of Jurists and Diplomatists, on the subject of the Civilisation of War and the Codification of the Law of Nations." In a letter accompanying a copy of this essay, forwarded to Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., M. Lucas writes as follows:—"Having been informed of your intention to propose in the ensuing session of the English Parliament an address to the Crown, 'that it may please Her Majesty to instruct the Minister for Foreign Affairs to open communications with the various Governments with a view to the adoption of a permanent system of international arbitration,' I hasten to congratulate you, dear sir, on this your intention, and to express my deep sympathy with your object. By the essay which accompanies this letter, you will see that we both have a common end in view, and as to the means of attaining our desired object, I am of the opinion that it must be by means of Congresses of skilled jurists and diplomatists. I have already initiated an appeal to jurists, through the medium of the Institute of France; and you are about to make a similar appeal to Diplomatists through the English Parliament. So you will perceive that there could not be a better understanding between us, although neither has heretofore concerted with the other on the subject. In a letter which I published a short time ago, I expressed my regret that, since the horrible war of 1870, no one has been able to raise an influential voice to secure the rights of humanity and the real progress of civilisation. In breaking this silence, you, sir, have acted in a manner which does you honour in the eyes of the civilised world. And you have encouragement to hope for a sympathetic and cordial reciprocation of your view on the part of the illustrious head of the English Cabinet, who, in the settlement of the Alabama question, has himself furnished you with a glorious precedent, which, as I told the members of the Institute of France, has redounded also to the honour of that distinguished body, inasmuch as it includes amongst its foreign associates the two eminent men, Mr. Gladstone and Count Sclopis, of whom the former, in the name of the British Government, initiated the Tribunal of Arbitrators, whilst the latter was chosen to the high honour of presiding over it."

Prince Louis Napoleon yesterday visited the Queen at Windsor, and lunched with Her Majesty and the Princess Beatrice. His Imperial Highness was accompanied from London by Viscount Sydney; and in returning from the Castle to the railway-station he was also accompanied by Prince Christian. A demonstration—which seemed to gratify the young Prince—was accorded him on the platform, where many ladies and gentlemen had assembled.

Literature.

*IDEALISM.**

Mr. Graham tells us in his preface that the haste with which he was compelled to write this essay allowed him no choice in "the vesture of "his thought." As it was matter of compulsion, he feels but slightly the necessity for apology or for further explanation to his readers. He comforts himself with the reflection that "when "there is no time to put on carefully a formal "dress, and what comes readiest to hand must "be taken, we *will* (?) probably be presented "with an appearance, if less dignified, yet "more easy, true, and natural." The dress seems to be of good materials, and would doubtless have been a creditable one in other respects, if it had only been put together better. As a literary style it may be easy for the writer, but for the reader it is neither easy nor true. Again and again we have had some difficulty in determining the author's intention, and have then sometimes found it contrary to the order and punctuation of his words. We wish that the philosophical writers, who like the present, so often and so justly praise Mr. Herbert Spencer for the depth of his thought, would imitate him in the clearness and precision of his style. But lest we seem superfluously eager to agree with Mr. Graham in his confession against himself, let us hasten to add that we are also constrained to agree with him on many other, and more important points. We especially admire the spirit in which he writes. He understands the nature of criticism, and abstains from arguments which end in the mere refutation of objections. With him the aim of criticism is to see the thought before him, to understand it, if possible; if that be impossible, to abstain from a barren and rude denial of its truth. An instance of this attitude towards other minds, as well as an example of grammatical construction, appears in a note on page 49:—"In a great thinker like Hegel, I expect fuller "knowledge will show as in nature, greater "harmony, and I distrust all superficial appear-"ances of inconsistencies and contradiction, of "which there seem more in Hegel's case than "any other thinker, these furnishing the means "of so many easy refutations of him, to those "who are disposed to exercise this art."

The aim of this essay is to expound and apply the principle of idealism; to show, that is, the various forms it has assumed in this country and in Germany, and to exhibit its capacity "to explain the universe." It is strictly a metaphysical work, though it glances once or twice at the ethical side of idealism. Thus, replying to the Comtist objection that metaphysical studies hinder "the effort to serve "an immortal humanity," Mr. Graham says: "Metaphysical problems will haunt us till they "are solved, or shown to be insoluble; but I "believe them to be soluble in time, and by "idealism; and I believe idealism contains all "that is great and true in this reverence of "humanity, which is distinctly a corollary "taken from it, but with one fatal mistake or "omission. The ideas are superior to humanity, "and not humanity to the ideas; the ideas of "truth, justice, benevolence, and freedom (as "well as the special ideals of religion and art), "and in all the best and truest systems of ethics "—the Stoical, the Christian, the modern Ger-"man—they were put first, and man second. "And men have approved this ever and anon, "at great crises, by merging their individual "being, and giving up their individual lives, "not for humanity, but for a principle, an idea, "which was merely impersonated or manifested "in humanity." Then follows a passage which is hardly just to English Comtists, so far as we know them, and which is quite opposed to the spirit of their writings. Similarly idealism of the more transcendental order is opposed to the practical materialism which is said to be the tendency of English sense-idealism, viz., that of Mr. J. S. Mill; though it is admitted that no one has more earnestly protested against it than Mr. Mill himself. We need not quote the passage, which may be found on page 39, but commending it as a noble protest against the too prevalent delight in sensuous ease and luxury, we submit that it expresses a feeling which idealism only shares with other forms of philosophy, and on which it must not specially plume itself.

Metaphysically considered, the idealism espoused by Mr. Graham is that of Berkeley and Hegel; not entirely so, but with such a slight modification in the case of the latter philosopher's system of thought, that we may regard this as a defence of transcendental idealism. "I dissent," says our author, "from Berkeley's "theory, that co-related consciousnesses "equal all existence; and I dissent from "Hegel's position, that thought in man is the "highest reflective thought (or thought which "is aware of itself as such), and thus the true "and full existence of the universe; and from "both, for the same reason, that neither can be "verified by any faculty of knowledge to which "we might appeal; not by Sense, which is "confined to the earth; not by Reason, while "she can and evidently does entertain some "doubt regarding it." Still it is to idealism we must look for any sufficient explanation of the universe, and for the only possible refutation of materialism. The whole of this treatise is full of interest to minds who have any love or aptitude for metaphysical inquiries; and apart from certain defects in style, it is a lucid explanation of the different theories of Berkeley and Hegel. There is one part which has a special interest for our own minds; that, viz., in which Mr. Graham deals with the sense-idealism of Mr. Mill, and the comparative nescience of Mr. Herbert Spencer. The former writer is, as is well known, an idealist, and attempts to account for our belief in the reality of what is merely phenomenal. The latter is not an idealist, nor is he a materialist. Like Goethe, he believes man is not born to solve the problem which the universe presents. He has no explanation to offer. What "the power "manifested in things" is, he cannot affirm, except that it "is no more representable in "terms of human consciousness than human "consciousness is representable in terms of a "plant's function." We pass by, though not without interest, Mr. Graham's attempt to conciliate Mr. Mill's objections to Hegel, in order to direct our readers' attention more especially to the treatment of Mr. Spencer's view. First is to be noted the fact that our essayist recognises its importance, an importance, in our opinion, so great, that the future, not only of English philosophy, but of practical theology, will be determined by its acceptance or rejection. The second fact is that Mr. Graham admits that to this theory it is not easy to give a complete answer from the principles of Berkeley.

We cannot in this brief sketch find space to give all the reasons alleged for this admission, nor is it necessary. The point to be observed is that the admission is made by one of the most competent and enthusiastic Berkeleians of the present day. It is, we confess, an objection to Berkeley's theory, if it necessitates a recourse to Hegelianism to sustain it. Here is what we are told we must do, if we are to succeed in expressing "the ultimate power manifested in "things" in the terms of our own consciousness. And even this plan gives us but slender hopes of success. "To Hegel's system then "we must look for a more complete answer to "the views of Mr. Spencer, if even there it can "be had. In that system of absolute idealism "no real thing can exist beyond the pale of "knowledge; not even a mystery unfathomable, "as with Mr. Spencer, for the mystery, so far "as unpenetrated by ray of reason, is by hypo-"thesis unknown—and then how do we even "know it exists? It is precisely for know-"ledge as if it did not exist. Here is a case "where being and non-being are the same. "Therefore we may affirm the mystery does "not exist if utterly unknown. On the other "hand, as far as known, it is not a mystery, "but reduced to subjection of reason. The "empire of thought comprehends all existence, "for all beyond it (using the word thought to "include the most advanced reason, and grant-"ing, as Hegel proves, thought wider than "consciousness) is as being unknown non-ex-"istent for her, and can only become existent "by the further advance of thought itself. "Mr. Spencer is a realist, and can allow a "mystery to exist, and many other existencies "too, deeper than plummet of thought ever "sounded; but Hegel, as an absolute idealist, "cannot, and he alone can oppose a consistent "theory to that of Mr. Spencer. There is still "the weakness in Hegel's system, *that he has "not proved the philosopher's thought the highest*, "and if not, there may be existencies outside, "though if they are never known in any way "by him they are the same as non-existent. "And, according to the views of eminent "critics, there must be understood an ex-"tension of thought to include purpose or will "as well as reason." Here, then, we must pause, trusting that, "if philosophy is now "unable to solve all difficulties, she may "have higher hopes in future." But even that hope is not permitted us by Mr. Spencer, whose philosophical scepticism Mr. Graham promises to examine in a future essay. We shall look with pleasure for its appearance. We are quite sure that it will treat with perfect impartiality and courtesy the views to which its author is opposed. We would suggest that the present essay, which deserves a longer life than it is likely to have in its present form, should be combined with it and re-dressed.

* *Idealism; an Essay, Metaphysical and Critical.* By WILLIAM GRAHAM, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin. (London: Longman and Co.)

*"WALKS IN FLORENCE."**

The Misses Horner have succeeded in bringing Florence near to us both in its present and its past: They have patiently sought out all the more noticeable facts and associations, and have given them faithful setting. If their account lacks the bolder imaginative touches which impart so much force to this kind of writing, and which we find, for example, so frequently giving zest and relief to the dryer detail of Mr. Hare's "Rome," the ladies have this advantage—that they diffuse a pleasant, though subdued, aroma of poetry through their whole work; so that we glide along, without jar, or sense of the largeness of the area over which we have been conducted by them. And what an area it is truly! From the early mediæval glories of Florence down through the long dark avenue of its divisions and faction fights—Guelph and Ghibelline—to which the presence of the immortal Dante has imparted an eternal significance and interest, and these premonitions of reformation in the but partially successful efforts of Savonarola—down to our own poverty-stricken times, when Florence borrows a dusky halo from the past which only serves to show the more clearly the depth of her fall. Her wonderful associations, her rare treasures of art, her architectural beauties, the odd manners of her people—all these things the Misses Horner have long and lovingly noted, and set before us in the most simple and effective order. Lengthened residence has brought familiarity to them without weakening the sense of strangeness and romance; and we are almost compelled to say that they have produced a model guide-book. And what could possibly be higher praise than this? If we may judge by one or two recent specimens, the guide-books of the future are not to be mere "dry tables of 'matters'"; but the result of careful and studious restoration of the past, whereby we can more closely catch the spirit of the great historic scenes of the world. Condensed libraries of information—with enough of historic instinct and fancy to lighten and give life—and amongst these, "Walks in Florence" may, we venture to think, claim to be classed hereafter.

The book is constructed, in a general way, on the same system as "Walks in Rome," but, owing to the topography of Florence, it does not quite so readily yield itself to this style of treatment. Difficulties which to a superficial observer might have seemed almost insuperable, have been got over by the exercise of no little tact and condensation. The plan is to group round a central object of interest—church, gallery, garden, palace, or work of art—all the more notable associations and memories; thus forming a series of short, independent chapters, which, with a table of chronology added at the end, furnish us with a very complete history from the earliest times till now. Reference also, by this method, is made very easy. Occasionally, as we have said, the Misses Horner can add a touch of quiet eloquence—never over-mastering, as in some of the sweetly-swelling paragraphs of Mr. Ruskin, but giving a sense of real mastery of the subject. This, for example, gives a very good idea of the Borgo Allegri (Joyful Borough):—

> A narrow, straggling, dirty street, crossing the Via Ghibellina, bears the pleasant name of Borgo Allegri; here the car was once kept which carried the Sacred Fire from San Biagio to the Canto dei Pazzi, and to the Cathedral, on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. In this part of the borough, beyond the second circuit of walls, between San Patro Maggiore and Santa Croce, were gardens, in which, according to tradition, Cimabue had his first workshop or studio. Here he painted his Madonna Enthroned, now in St. Maria Novello, a wonderful picture of the time; and here the painter was visited by King Charles of Anjou, when in Florence on his way from France to Naples. The story is thus related by Vasari: 'Cimabue painted on panel a picture of our Lady, for the Church of Santa Maria Novello, which work was of greater size than any yet executed . . . . whence it excited so much wonder in the people of that age, that it was borne in solemn procession with rejoicings and with trumpets from the house of Cimabue to the church, and he received great reward and honours. It is said, as may be seen in records of the old painters, that, whilst Cimabue was painting this panel in certain gardens near Santa Croce, King Charles the Elder of Anjou passed through Florence, and, among the entertainments to do him honour by the people of the city, he was taken to see Cimabue's picture: as no one had until then obtained a glimpse of it, a vast crowd of men and women collected, making great signs of rejoicing whilst it was exhibited to the king, and pressing upon one another, and because of the joy occasioned in the neighbourhood, the district was called Borgo Allegri (Joyful Borough)."

* *Walks in Florence.* By SUSAN and JOANNA HORNER. With illustrations. Two volumes. (Strahan and Co.)

The history of Savonarola and the Convent of St. Marco, at pp. 164-168, Vol. II., is very admirable—a masterpiece of condensation and polished style. As, however, the writers never aim at eloquence, it is perhaps unfair to them to seek to illustrate the merits of their work in this way. Some chapters, such as those on the Uffizi and the Pitti Galleries, are hardly to be surpassed, in any language, for careful, sober completeness of detail, and general effectiveness of grouping—qualities not so often found together as might be,—the want of balance being sometimes seen even in Mr. Ruskin. We can only justify our remark as to the quiet insight, sympathy, and unpretending skill of this book by one other extract. This is a description of Ghirlandajo's "Last Supper" in the cloister of Ogni Santo:—

"The walls of the cloisters of Ogni Santi are painted by several artists, and represent incidents and miracles in the life of St. Francis. Beginning from the door, the first five lunettes leading to the second cloister, and those on the side wall of the church, are by Giovanni di San Giovanni. The meeting of St. Francis and St. Dominick, and St. Francis receiving the stigmata, are by Jacopo Ligozzi, who also painted all the lunettes on the northern and eastern walls. The door opening on the second or inner cloister conducts to the Refectory, where there is a noble Cenacols, or Last Supper, by Domenico Ghirlandajo, bearing the date 1480, the same year that he painted the St. Jerome in the church, when he was only thirty-one years of age. Although the arrangement is in accordance with the conventional rule, the composition is very original. The Saviour's head is extremely beautiful, and the absorbed expression of His countenance, serene, yet serious, as if the treachery of His disciple was forgotten in the thought that the great sacrifice was shortly to be consummated, is truly sublime. St. Peter beside him, true to the impetuous nature of this apostle, has taken on himself to reprove Judas, and points significantly with his thumb to the Saviour. Perhaps to enhance the nobility of the head of Christ, the artist has erred in giving too much vulgarity to the head of Peter, whose countenance, nevertheless, is very fine, animated, and expressive. The low, hardened villain, which Judas is represented, is well expressed by his defiant attitude, and the sneer with which he meets Peter's reproof. St. John is asleep. Beyond him one of the apostles leans his head on his hand, and appears plunged in melancholy reflections; his countenance and attitude are very beautiful, and are in contrast with the animation and questioning interest of the rest."

This book will hereafter be a *sine quâ non* for English and American visitors to Florence, whose numbers we are fain to think it will also tend very considerably to increase.

*ANIMALS AND THEIR MASTERS.**

Sir Arthur Helps has here found a great subject. In spite of the idea which prevails in many places that the interest in property is sufficient to insure that animals be well treated by their masters, it is a fact that there is much cruelty, and that nearly all of it is inflicted more because of lack of thought and knowledge of their dispositions than because of any intention to be cruel. And here arises the difficulty of treating the subject dogmatically. Any one who has had much to do with animals, say, horses, must know something of the great varieties of temper and disposition to be found among them; each one, in fact, needs to be studied and in a certain way humoured. No mere violence will ever really subdue some horses, though they may for a time give the appearance of being cowed; and the man who gains influence over such animals is he who combines firmness with quick instinct for character. This is an incommunicable quality, just as the instinct for managing and ruling men is; but Sir Arthur Helps, while he is quite right in agitating for the abolition of the "bearing-rein" and other kindred cruelties, knows better than to lay down any hard-and-fast rule in the matter. The conversational form, which he has managed with so much grace and influence hitherto, is here distinctly suitable; and he has written one of the most masterly essays we have ever read, illumined, as all his writing is, with flashes of insight, humour, and satire of the very finest kind. But Sir Arthur always inclines to be so indirect, so oblique—so much disposed merely to hint points, and leave them to drop into your mind there to germinate quietly afterwards—that in this case we fear his words are somewhat of too fine an edge to penetrate the intellects of those with whom the reforms he desires must mostly rest. Nothing is more impenetrable than fashion, and it is a fashion against which Sir Arthur Helps has mainly sets himself to protest so eloquently throughout this book. You hit a cushion as you please, gently or forcibly, but it yields to your blow only to weaken it and to take slowly precisely the same position as before. However, it is a great thing that a voice like that of Sir Arthur Helps—which will certainly be listened to in the proper quarter—has been raised in this matter.

Sir Arthur Helps, of course, cannot help saying many fine things in the course of his argument, and his conversational *asides* are always very full of character. The remarks by Ellesmere on "fellows who read books" at p. 63 are especially good; and this, put into the mouths of Milverton and Ellesmere, is really admirable:—

"I sometimes think it was a great misfortune for the world that the horse was ever subjugated. The horse is the animal that has been the worst treated by man; and his subjugation has not been altogether a gain to mankind. The oppressions which he has aided in were from the earliest ages excessive. He it is to whom we owe much of the rapine of those ages called 'the Dark Ages.' And I have a great notion that he has been made the main instrument of the bloodiest warfare. I wish men had to draw their own cannon up hill; I doubt whether they would not rebel at that. And a commander, obliged to be on foot throughout the campaign, would very soon get tired of the war. To what a height of material civilisation a nation might arrive without the horse was seen in Mexico and Peru, when the Spaniards first entered and devastated those regions, where they found thousands of houses well built and with gardens attached to them. I doubt whether there was a single Mexican so ill lodged as millions of our poor countrymen are. So you see, when I almost regret the subjugation of the horse, I assume that civilisation would not thereby have certainly been retarded.

"*Ellesmere:* I do not object to the horse having been subjugated; but what I regret is that he does not make a noise. Considering how he is wronged, he is the most quiet and uncomplaining creature in the world. Observe the cab-horse quietly lifting up one of his forefeet, just showing to the observant passer-by how full of pain it is (you see I do observe animals sometimes); and then think what a row any other animal would make in a similar condition; and how noisily he would remonstrate against the needless brutality of his driver."

And so, as Ellesmere puts it, it is with animals as with men—the noisier and more demonstrable fare the better in the way of extorting sympathy and its practical equivalent, charity.

On one point, however, Sir Arthur speaks with more decision—a point on which there is certainly great need for decision—viz., the manner in which cattle are treated while being conveyed from one place to another. It is simply shameful. As Sir Arthur says, a beginning has been made by the committee appointed to investigate this question; but much yet remains to be done. The writer of this, for one period of his life, was under the necessity of walking through a certain part of northern London after midnight. On particular mornings as he was going homewards he met drove after drove of sheep being driven to the shambles from a distance. There was a certain place at which the drovers used to make a short stop for one reason or another; and as many as one-third of the poor, panting animals would drop down as if dead; another third, not quite so far gone, would turn up the mud of the gutter close at your feet, if it had recently been wet; while the remaining third stood stock still and silent under the moon—the most touching sight the writer thinks that he ever saw, because it was so easily preventible, if indeed it was not surpassed when the drovers returned and pelted, and with the help of their dogs, yelled and whistled till the nearest sleepers must surely have turned in bed wondering, unless custom had dulled the sense. Now, here all that was wanted along these regular driving-routes to prevent at all events this horrible pass being reached, was a few watering troughs put up at these usual stopping places, to let the animals drink. For want of these, besides cruelty to the poor animals, one section of London certainly suffered within the next few days from bad, streaky mutton, and paid, in lack of nourishment in victuals, far more than would have put up the troughs and supplied them for weeks with water.

We hope Sir Arthur Helps' work may help towards a thorough and much-needed reform in all these matters.

* *Some Talk about Animals and Their Masters.* By the Author of "Friends in Council." (Strahan and Co.)

BRIEF NOTICES.

A First Latin Grammar. By the Rev. THOMAS WHITE, LL.D. *Latin Prose through English Idiom.* Rev. E. A. ABBOTT, D.D. (Seeleys.) These are additions to the admirable series of text-books edited by the Rev. A. J. Church, and published by Messrs. Seeley and Co. We have already expressed the high value we set upon the earlier issues of the series; and of these, the latest, we can speak with equal confidence. Mr. White's elementary grammar is a model of clearness in statement and printing. It is just the book for a beginner. Dr. Abbott's work is intended for boys who have gone through the ordinary exercises on the syntax, and are engaged on prose composition. It is not intended for pupils in sixth forms, though, as Dr. Abbott fears, many would find it of no small advantage. The idea of the book is admirable, not less so is its execution. The author deserves to be allowed to explain in his own words the ingenious device by which he ensures final accuracy in the learner. "The exercises "are arranged on a principle that I have adopted for "many years, that I may call the *pitfall principle*. Each "exercise contains a number of pits or traps. All traps "that prove fatal are repeated in the following exercise, "in a disguised form. If the fatality continues, the traps "are repeated, always marked in different expressions, "until even the weakest pupil in the class gains experience enough to warn him of danger."

NOTANDA.

The editor of the *Jewish Messenger* informs the *New York Tribune* that not more than a dozen origina poems have been sent him by Jewish contributors during many years, and last year not a single poem was sent. The *Tribune* therefore asks, "Do not Jews write poetry?" Here, at any rate, is a literary query of interest. Jewish artists, which some hold to be but another form of poetry, at once occur to mind; though, with the exception of Mr. Disraeli, and perhaps he is hardly a legitimate example, it is difficult to mention a Jewish poetiser offhand. That Jews take an interest in poetry is, however, evinced by the fact that Baron James de Rothschild, of Paris, is now in London examining the volumes of early French poetry in the British Museum. A bibliography of French poems from the invention of printing to about the middle of the sixteenth century, is, it is stated, to be published by Baron Rothschild and M. Picot, who have for some years had the work in hand, in which their English researches will of course be included. This, however, is not Jewish poetry. Can any reader mention a Jewish poet of any note?

With sensitive plants most of us are familiar; sensitive flames were recently a scientific novelty that caused considerable surprise, and now the climax is reached in sensitive waterfalls. Professor Houston, in the *Franklin Institute Journal*, introduces the public to the new wonder. Thin streams of water dripping from moss, according to the professor, respond to certain notes of the voice; to a shrill falsetto in particular. Visitors to the various dripping-wells have thus opportunity for varying their picnics by experiments, and the wonder is that if the alleged sensitiveness be correct, it has not been discovered long before.

With black diamonds at their present abnormal price, it is to be hoped that the discovery of coal across the Channel—in county Fermanagh—may turn out of more importance than the recent similar report from the Isle of Wight. Coal, to a limited extent, certainly exists in Ireland, for a hundred and twenty years ago a Mr. Stewart, living in county Antrim, petitioned the House of Commons for assistance in extending mining operations. In the end, the pits were abandoned, as they took fire and burned for several years. In 1858 the produce from all Ireland was 120,750 tons, Warwickshire alone producing thrice that amount in the same period. In these days, when coal is looked upon as so indispensible, it seems strange to read that in 1306 its use was prohibited in London and suburbs as a nuisance, in consequence of a petition presented by Parliament to Edward I. Had the prohibition remained in force from then till now, what a pleasant aspect the smoke-begrimed city would wear.

Now that Rede-monath, as the Saxons used to term it, is here, bronchitis is a seasonable theme, and a Belgian medico comes forward with the discovery that the cravat is so to speak, a bronchial barometer. When the cravat, which by the way is a corruption of Croat, is worn high, or with many folds, throat affections are comparatively few; when low, and but once round, diseases of that order are many. Curious statistics are this are given. In 1830 the cravat was worn twice or thrice round the neck, and bronchitis was little rife. Fashions prescribed once round for the cravat from 1840, and during the next ten years affections of the throat much increased. Height, as well as length, was diminished from 1850, with a corresponding increase of colds and concomitant results. The much altered article of attire in 1870 being entailed to the extent of scarcely encircling the neck, bronchitis proved more rampant still. In the present year chest and throat affections are chronicled in the bills of mortality as forming a twentieth part, the reason of which may be found in the current fashion of the reduction of the cravat to merely a knot attached to the shirt button. Fashion then should surely hark back to 1830, and the apoplectic stock be resuscitated. Time, at all events, is on the side of cravats. In 1636 French officers introduced them into France on returning from a German campaign, the idea being taken from the regiments of Croats who formed part of the Austrian army, they wearing linen round their necks. On a French regiment being organised after the same model, it was dubbed "The Royal Cravat," from the fact of a similar neckcloth being worn; whence the custom found its way to England.

Referring to Mr. Plimsoll and his disinterested mission, the *Saturday Review* gives pertinent examples controverting the theory that losses at sea are inevitable. Not a single Cunard steamer was ever lost on the Atlantic. Again, of the many coasting smacks—vessels to which Mr. Plimsoll specially refers—belonging to Mr. Elliott, M.P., and partners, scarce one has been lost, or even seriously damaged, for years past. In

both cases there is no doubt that conscientious precaution has resulted in this comparative immunity from the perils of the deep. The member for North Durham, having risen from the ranks, probably takes more interest in those to whom he owes his wealth than some who seem to think that, sink or swim, British sailors should be content with the ships they are engaged to navigate.

Of the poets of the past there is a pretty general acquaintance, but there are yet mines unworked, and it will be learned with interest that what is well described as a literary curiosity, the "Poems of Mary Queen of Scots," is in preparation. Ill-fated Mary Stuart is known to have been in a high degree accomplished, and the verses, which are understood to have been obtained from very obscure and original sources, will surely cast additional light on the character of their unhappy author. The following lines, which we should imagine will find a corner in the forthcoming volume, were written by the captive Queen on her birthday. The original was in Latin, and we are unaware to whom the translation is owing :—

Oh! my God and my Lord,
I have trusted in Thee;
Oh! Jesu, my love,
Now liberate me.
In my enemies' power,
In affliction's sad hour,
I languish for Thee.
In sorrowing, weeping,
And bending the knee,
I adore and implore Thee
To liberate me!

Additional interest attaches to the above from the belief that the verse was the last prayer of its author.

The anagram, which is said to have originated in the time of Moses, and flourished some three hundred years ago in this country, is again somewhat popular. It certainly affords ample opportunity for ingenuity, but though Calvin may be mentioned as one who did not disdain its occasional exercise, it is open to doubt if Camden is not unduly eulogistic when he says "Good anagrams yield a delightful comfort and pleasant motion in honest minds." Certainly the Premier can hardly feel gratified at the discovery, published with a good deal of inuendo and ill-concealed pleasure, that his name is capable of transformation into "Well, I'm glad I stole! Now rat!" An anagram which is, of course, capable of various applications by those bearing a political animus towards Mr. Gladstone. The stupendous intellectual effort involved in this anagrammatic abortion will, however, hardly procure its author the post of royal anagramist, should it be determined to follow the example of Louis XIII., who set apart 12,000 livres for that purpose; and Conservative wits would do well to give us a better sample of their powers, the instalment quoted being sadly deficient in Attic salt.

While paper gets dearer and dearer, newspapers get cheaper, and the *Weekly Register*, established in 1849 as the *Catholic Standard*, came out at twopence on Saturday, its previous price being fivepence. A leading organ of the Roman Catholic community, Liberal in politics, that is so far as Liberalism and Catholicism agree, the *Register* is of respectable standing; believed to be much in the confidence of Rome. Some interest also attaches to it from the fact that a brother of the Bishop of Winchester is its proprietor, and another brother of that prelate was formerly both editor and proprietor.

The honour of knighthood was recently conferred on the President of the Society of Painters in Water Colours at the instance of Mr. Gladstone. A resolution to confer honorary membership on a limited number of distinguished personages has since been passed by the Society, and the Premier, whose love of Art, as well as of old china, is common knowledge, was complimented by the first offer of the associateship. Mr. Prescott Hewett, the eminent surgeon, Mr. Ruskin, and Sir Richard Wallace, the new member for Lisburn, have also been elected under the new regulation. B.

THE COAL SCARCITY.

In London, the price of coal has been further reduced; the merchants' rate for the best quality being 40s. per ton. In Liverpool, also, there has been a reduction of 4s. per ton. Household coals came down considerably in price in the Wear and Tyne districts last week. Household coals, which were quoted in the London market at 32s. per ton, were 25s. at the pits. Seconds were about 22s. per ton. The rates were from 23s. to 25s. in the steam-coal trade, and 25s. per ton for gas coals; but with positive offers to load with ready ships more advantageous terms might have been arranged by buyers. The pitmen are working very steadily, and there is a fair average yield at the pits. The Durham pits, as a rule, are now working 11 days a fortnight; and from the fact that ships are loaded from several of the collieries within a shorter period than was arranged when they were placed on turn, it may fairly be inferred that certain classes of coals are becoming more plentiful. The demand for manufacturing coals for the iron-works continues to be very great. While it continues there can be no great relief to coal consumers.

Messrs. G. J. Cockerell and Co., referring to a letter in the *Times* from Mr. Ball, declare themselves able to prove—not indeed that they have always traded for a loss, as has been the case lately—but that they have never sought any but a moderate and legitimate profit. They say :—

Mr. Ball's statement of the average cost of best coals to the consumer during December and January last—viz., 35s. 8d.—is correct, but the figures he compares with these, and from which he draws his conclusions, are altogether incorrect. The average price of best Wallsend coals at the pit's mouth during December and January last was 19s. 1d. per ton of 21cwt., and not 16s., as stated by Mr. Ball, and the railway rates for the same coals were 11s. 9d., and not 9s. 4d. The average cost at King's-cross was, therefore, 30s. 10d. per ton of 21cwt., and not 25s. 4d.; the average cost of the best Wallsend in ship during the same period being 30s. 6d. per ton of 20cwt.

Messrs. Cockerell add :—"We state unreservedly that the net profits of the London merchant who does his business with strict regard to honesty in every particular, do not average more than from 1s. to 2s. per ton, and that our true interest is to serve our customers at as low a price as possible."

In Liverpool the great steamship companies, who protected themselves by contract against these sudden increases in price, find some difficulty in getting the terms of their contracts complied with, and it is said that there is some idea of raising the rates for passengers and freights.

At a meeting in Leeds on Friday the West Riding coalowners unanimously resolved not to grant the request of their workmen for a further increase of wages to the extent of 20 per cent., on the ground that such advance must have a disastrous effect upon the trading and other classes of the community. The members of the West Lancashire coal trade at Wigan have granted an advance of 10 per cent., being half of the amount demanded by the men, in the hope that the men in future will work full time. The colliers in the Ruabon and Wrexham districts have demanded an advance of wages to the extent of 20 per cent. As the coalowners are not likely to submit to this demand without a struggle, a strike is said to be imminent. It is stated that in the South Staffordshire district colliers are earning more than thirty shillings for twenty-four hours of work. The men have just had an advance of sixpence per day in that district. The price of coal was immediately afterwards raised by 2s. per ton. Some miners at Barnsley were prosecuted the other day for neglecting their work. It was stated that many of the men "played" one-third of their time, the reason apparently being that when they chose to work they could make nearly nine shillings a day. Three men were prosecuted, and they were mulcted in damages and costs.

Some new coal-cutting machinery, worked by compressed air, has been introduced with success into the Hetton Colliery, Durham. It is stated that if these machines were generally adopted, 60,000 colliers would raise the 120,000,000 tons of coal now annually produced, instead of the 360,000 now engaged in that work. By the mechanical cutter the waste of coal is greatly lessened, and the ventilation of the colliery workings improved.

Many leading coal-owners have written to the *Pall Mall Gazette* disputing the charge brought against them of seeking to reduce production. Mr. Joseph W. Pease, M.P., wishes to give "a most clear and emphatic denial" to the statement of W. R. G. "that the leading proprietors in Northumberland and Durham have practically an understanding among themselves as to the regulation of prices is, I believe, indisputable." Mr. Pease says :—"Now as regards the actual output; my own firm (I may say without boasting one of the largest in the trade) has done that which our neighbours have done, and is building more houses, for without houses we cannot procure men; but this is a question involving time. I believe it will be found that the present high prices are materially affecting our manufacturing trades; as their manufactures are driven from the market by their increased cost, coal will be less in demand, and the price will come down. Then, again, the high price of labour is bringing in sailors even, and other men, who in time, but it takes time, will make miners. In my own neighbourhood there are at least three or four large new sinkings for coal going on."

Miscellaneous.

Homerton College, the Training Institution of the Congregational Board of Education.—On Monday evening, March 3, the Rev. Samuel Hebditch gave an address to the students of this institution. Twenty-six females and twenty-four male students are in residence, this being all the accommodation which the college affords.

Victoria Institute.—A meeting of this institute took place at its rooms, 8, Adelphi-terrace, on Monday evening. Several new members were elected, and donations to the library announced; after which a paper on the "Law of Creation" was read by the Rev. G. W. Weldon, M.A., in which he showed that amid the many varieties of form in creation, yet there was, to the most careful student of nature, an unmistakable unity of plan. Of this he gave instances from anatomy, geology, botany, &c. A discussion followed, in which the following joined—the Master of the Charterhouse, C. Brooke, Esq., F.R.S., Dr. J. Howard, Dr. Harrison, Captain Nolloth, R.N., &c.

The Middlesex Magistrates and Dr. Hessel.—A long but resultless discussion took place at the meeting of the Middlesex magistrates on Thursday respecting the treatment of Dr. Hessel in the Clerkenwell House of Detention. Sir John Heron Maxwell moved the appointment of a committee to report on the prison rules and regulations affecting persons under remand or charged with crime; while Sir William Fraser proposed, as an amendment, to refer the subject to the visiting justices. In the debate, several speakers, while holding that Dr. Hessel had suffered hard treatment, declined to consider his case other than exceptional, or that there was sufficient warrant for a special inquiry, and in the end both motion and amendment were negatived.

Preserved Meat.—Australian papers state that meat-preserving is still carried on to a moderate extent only. So much has now to be paid for sheep that the business is not so profitable as it was when the meats were selling at a lower price than at present in London. The fact appears to be that the times are so good with the squatters that they have no wish to part with their stock. The grass is abundant on the runs, and the condition of the animals excellent. Large numbers of store sheep are also sent up, it appears, to the north, where country abandoned several years ago is now being restocked. In 1871 preserved meats of the value of 356,109*l.* were exported from Victoria; in 1872, of the value of only 253,342*l.*

Luther's First Study of the Bible.—The large and very admirable picture exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1869, painted by E. M. Ward, R.A., it is intended to present to the British and Foreign Bible Society, to be placed in the new house of the society in Blackfriars. With that view, a committee has been formed to raise subscriptions; such subscriptions now amount to about 400*l.*, half the sum required. We referred to the matter some time ago; operations were postponed mainly in consequence of the war between Germany and France; recently, however, they have been resumed, and with assurance of success. A meeting of the committee was held in the private room at Ransom's Bank, early in February, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird in the chair. Twelve members attended—gentlemen of position and wealth (among them being Mr. George Moore and General White); and an address was signed by the Lord Mayor, Lord Shaftesbury, William Morley, Esq., George Moore, Esq., and the Hon. A. Kinnaird, which it was arranged to circulate widely among the millions interested in the issue. There can be no doubt, consequently, of raising the sufficient sum; and probably in a month or two we shall have to report the result. Meanwhile, the picture will be for a time exhibited at Messrs. Graves and Co.'s, 6, Pall Mall. Many lovers of art, as well as those who advocate the circulation of the Written Word "throughout all nations, and among all peoples in all languages," will gladly contribute aid if they knew how and where to do so. It is only necessary to state that subscriptions will be received at Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.'s Bank, Pall-mall East.—*Art Journal.*

Debts of the World.—There are seven European nations which owe upwards of 100,000,000*l.* each. They are :—

Great Britain	£790,000,000
France (lowest estimate) ...	748,000,000
Italy	360,000,000
Russia...	355,000,000
Austria	306,000,000
Spain	261,000,000
Turkey	124,000,000
	£2,944,000,000

The debt of the German Empire amounts to a little over 35,000,000*l.* The different States composing it, however, owe in the aggregate about 173,000,000*l.* The liabilities of the Empire may, therefore, be probably placed at about 208,000,000*l.* The debts of the eight most heavily encumbered European countries may in this way be raised to about 3,152,000,000*l.* There are six other countries in Europe which owe their creditors more than 10,000,000*l.*, but less than 100,000,000*l.* They are Holland, Portugal, Belgium, Greece, Roumania, and Denmark. We shall probably be within the mark in saying that, without including the liabilities of municipalities, the national debts of Europe exceed at the present moment 3,400,000,000*l.* The chief debts in each of the five great divisions of the world amount in the aggregate to the following sums :—

Europe	£3,400,000,000
America	573,000,000
Asia...	135,000,000
Africa	39,000,000
Australasia...	38,000,000
	£4,185,000,000

If we only add 15,000,000*l* to this total for minor omissions we are compelled to conclude that the nations of the world owe their creditors 4,200,000,000*l.*—a sum which, at only 4½ per cent., must involve a charge of 189,000,000*l.* a year.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Sunday Trading in Lambeth.—A conference of Lambeth tradesmen was held on Monday at Lambeth Palace, on the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, "on the subject of Sunday rest in the parish." The archbishop, in opening the conference, quoted statistics to show what had been done in various localities in the way of cessation of Sunday-trading, and remarked that though there might be difficulties on the side of sellers and buyers in the way of altogether getting rid of Sunday dealings, they were yet not such as could not be overcome. Various unsuccessful attempts had

been made to remove the evil by legislation; but make what law you pleased, if it did not carry the population with it it would be powerless, and, therefore he hailed with delight these voluntary efforts to educate the public up to the point where legislation would become almost universally acceptable. There was no difference of opinion (the archbishop said) as to the blessing of having one day in seven set apart on which to rest body and mind from the overwhelming weight of earthly occupations, so as to prepare us for this life as well as the life that is to come; and hence this was a great philanthropic movement in which all men, whatever their ability or religious convictions, could assist. Mr. S. Morley, M.P., also spoke, and said that since the costermongers had been restricted to 10.30 a.m. at the instance of the shopkeepers themselves, the same law ought to be applied to the small minority of traders who persisted in keeping open beyond that hour. One of the tradesmen present said that a motion would next week be made in the Lambeth Vestry to that effect. Sir T. Chambers, M.P., and other gentlemen having spoken, Mr. Morley moved, and the Rev. J. H. Lingham, rector of the parish, seconded, a vote of thanks to the archbishop for calling the conference. His grace, in acknowledging it, remarked that the old palace had never been applied to a better purpose.

DEPUTATION OF NONCONFORMIST MINISTERS TO THE PRIMATE.—A deputation of Nonconformist ministers waited upon the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday morning, at Lambeth Palace, to request the support of his grace to the bill for legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister, now before the House of Lords. The deputation, which was representative of the various Dissenting sects, consisted of the Rev. T. Binney, Congregationalist; the Rev. J. S. Withington, President of the United Methodist Free Churches; Dr. Vance Smith, Unitarian; the Rev. J. V. B. Shrewsbury and the Rev. E. Workman, Wesleyan Methodist; Mr. F. Schnadhorst, Secretary of the Central Nonconformist Committee; the Rev. W. Tyler, and the Rev. E. Schnadhorst. Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S., in introducing the deputation, said that it represented the clerical opinion of the vast majority of Nonconformists. They had two petitions to present in favour of the bill, one signed by 7,000 of the laity and another by 5,000 ministers. He called attention to the fact that the House of Lords had rejected the bill six times, and remarked upon the weight of public opinion in favour of it at the present time. Mr. F. Schnadhorst having alluded to the absence of the Presidents of the Congregational Union, the Nonconforming Methodists, and the Primitive Methodists, who were expected to attend, the Rev. Dr. Binney said that he thoroughly concurred in the desire that there should be no legislation on this subject. There were two aspects to the question; on one side, that of Scriptural authority; and on the other, that of social expediency. He had gone carefully into the subject, and it was his honest conviction that there was no Scriptural reason for the prohibition of such marriages by the legislature. The social considerations, too, were very strong in favour of the abolition of the law. Other gentlemen having spoken, the Archbishop of Canterbury asked what the state of feeling was among the Presbyterian body and the Roman Catholics. In reply, it was stated that the United Presbyterians in Scotland were not generally in favour of the bill, and based their objections upon Scriptural grounds. The Presbyterian churches in England were, however, nearly unanimous in its favour, as were the Roman Catholics. The Archbishop of Canterbury, replying to the deputation, said that the social question deserved very careful consideration, and he was unwilling to express any decided opinion just then. They were aware that he had never taken part in any discussion on the subject in the House of Lords, neither had he been present at any of the debates. He would give the matter his most serious attention, and he again remarked that it was impossible to conceal the very grave social considerations that were involved. The deputation having thanked his grace for his courtesy, then withdrew.

Gleanings.

A new and young octopus has arrived at the Brighton Aquarium.

A Muscatine clergyman is speaking against the re-establishment of the death penalty in Iowa. He says he does not want his congregation thinned out too fast.

The builder of a church, replying to a toast at a public dinner, inaptly remarked that he was better fitted for the scaffold than for public speaking.

A SPINSTER'S EFFECTS.—The following curious advertisement lately appeared in a provincial paper:—"To be sold by private contract, a beautiful monkey, a parrot, two spaniels, and a tortoiseshell tom-cat—the property of a lady just married, who has no further occasion for the same."

A lady, in examining the inscriptions and effigies on the tombstones in a cemetery, came upon one which bore the neatly engraved image of a horse, the reason of which she vainly strove to ascertain by the inscription, when a little girl who was with her remarked that it was put on the stone "because he died of the nightmare."

The *Choir* tells the following story:—An enthusiastic precentor the other Sunday, on leaving church, happened to meet one of the churchwardens. "Well," said the man of music, "how do you like the Gregorians?" "I haven't the pleasure of knowing the family," rejoined the other, and then inquired with naive simplicity, "Whereabouts do they sit?"

Conversation between an inquiring stranger and a steamboat pilot:—"That is Black Mountain?" "Yes, sir, highest mountain above Lake George." "Any story or legend connected with that mountain?" "Lots of 'em. Two lovers went up to that mountain once and never came back again." "Indeed—why; what became of them?" "They, went down the other side."

WAKED UP.—In one of the Lowell churches on a late Sunday the minister stopped suddenly when about half through his sermon, and, taking up the hymn-book, gave out a hymn, requesting all the congregation to rise and join in the singing, after which he resumed his sermon, evidently well-satisfied with the waking up which had been effected.

A FUNNY MISTAKE.—A prominent and fun-loving resident of New London, Conn., made preparations to attend a fireman's masquerade ball at Stafford, taking with him in his carpet-bag a dashing uniform for the festive occasion. In the cars he sat beside an old gentleman, both placing their carpet-bags in the same rack. The old man left the cars first, taking with him his new-found friend's bag. Arriving at his journey's end, the first-named gentleman opened his bag to exhibit his costume, and to his dismay found the following articles:—One false shirt-bosom, one spectacle-case resembling a castor-oil bean, one bottle of rheumatism medicine, one copy of "Old Man's Guide to Glory," one and one-half pounds plug tobacco, one tooth-brush, four soiled collars, &c., &c.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1873.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£39,309,760	Government Debt.	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	24,309,760
		Silver Bullion	—
	£39,309,760		£39,309,760

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Propr'tor's Capit'l	£14,553,000	Government Securities, (inc. dead weight annuity).	£13,382,303
Rest	3,523,885		
Public Deposits	14,644,110		
Other Deposits	17,977,144	Other Securities	21,962,601
Seven Day and other Bills	338,762	Notes	14,777,070
		Gold & Silver Coin	914,927
	£51,036,901		£51,036,901

Feb. 27, 1873. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BREAKFAST. — EPPS'S COCOA. — GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills."—*Civil Service Gazette*. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Epps's Cacaoine, a thin, refreshing beverage for evening use.

HOW TO DYE SILK, WOOL, FEATHERS, RIBBONS, &c., in ten minutes, without soiling the hands. Use Judson's Simple Dyes, eighteen colours, 6d. each, full instructions supplied. Of all chemists. The "Family Herald," Sept. 3, says, "A very slight acquaintance with Judson's Dyes will render their application clear to all."

DEAR COALS! DEAR MEAT!—Use Australian cooked beef and mutton. Sold retail by all grocers. Wholesale by John McCall and Co., 137, Houndsditch, E.C.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, March 3.

We had only a small supply of English wheat this morning, and from abroad arrivals are moderate. We had a quiet market, and business was restricted to retail sales. Of English wheat the best samples were disposed of at last week's quotations; other descriptions were 1s. per qr. lower. For foreign wheat a similar decline was submitted to on Ghirka wheat ex ship. Flour was dull at last week's prices. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unaltered in value. Malting barley was 1s. lower; grinding descriptions were unaltered in value. The demand for oats was inactive, and the sales made were at 3d. to 6d. per qr. decline on the week. Cargoes on the coast met a slow sale, and last week's prices are barely supported.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—		
Essex and Kent, red	59 to	62
Ditto new	50	58
White	58	67
„ new	50	58
Foreign red	59	62
„ white	64	67
BARLEY—		
English malting	31	35
Chevalier	42	49
Distilling	32	35
Foreign	29	31
MALT—		
Pale	66	74
Chevalier	—	—
Brown	55	60
BEANS—		
Ticks	31	33
Harrow	33	35
Small	—	—
Egyptian	32	34
PEAS—		
Grey	33 to	35
Maple	38	41
White	36	40
Boilers	36	40
Foreign	37	39
RYE—	36	38
OATS—		
English feed	21	26
„ potato	27	33
Scotch feed	—	—
„ potato	—	—
Irish Black	18	21
„ White	18	21
Foreign feed	16	20
FLOUR—		
Town made	50	57
Best country households	44	47
Norfolk & Suffolk	38	42

BREAD, Monday, March 3.—The prices in the Metropolis are, for Wheaten Bread, per 4lbs. loaf, 7½d. to 8d. Household Bread, 6½d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, March 3.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 12,216 head. In the corresponding week in 1872 we received 12,775; in 1871, 6,201; in 1870, 7,730; in 1869, 13,972; and in 1868, 1,971 head. The cattle trade has been characterised by quietness. The supplies of stock, though by no means excessive, have been amply sufficient for requirements, and prices have had a drooping tendency. From our own grazing districts the receipts of beasts have been moderate. In all breeds sales have progressed slowly at barely late rates, the extreme quotation for the best Scots and crosses being 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. Amongst the foreign supply have been about 250 Spanish, some of which have been of excellent quality. There are also about 200 Dutch. The number of sheep offering has again been small; nevertheless, the demand has been inactive, at a decline of about 2d. per 8lbs.; the best Downs and half-breds have sold at 7s. 8d. to 7s. 10d. per 8lbs. Calves, the supply of which has been short, have been unaltered in value. Pigs have been quiet at late rates. At Deptford there have been 47 beasts from Hamburg.

Per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	4	4 to	4	8	Pr. coarse wooled	7	4	7	6
Second quality	4	10	5	2	Prime Southdown	7	8	7	10
Prime large oxen	5	6	5	8	Lge. coarse calves	5	0	5	8
Prime Scots	5	10	6	0	Prime small	6	2	6	6
Coarse inf. sheep	5	8	6	4	Large hogs	5	4	5	10
Second quality	6	6	6	10	Neat sm. porkers	4	0	4	6

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, March 3.—There were more liberal supplies of meat offering, for which a better inquiry prevailed, and for prime Scotch beef, as well as mutton, higher rates were occasionally obtained.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef	3	0 to	3	8	Inferior Mutton	4	0 to	5	0
Middling do.	3	8	4	4	Middling do.	5	0	5	4
Prime large do.	4	6	5	0	Prime do.	5	8	6	2
Prime small do.	4	10	5	4	Large pork	4	0	4	6
Veal	5	4	5	8	Small do.	4	8	5	8

PROVISIONS, Monday, March 3.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 23 firkins butter, and 2,421 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 19,851 packages butter, and 22 bales and 1,868 boxes bacon. Butters sell steadily. In foreign no particular alteration in prices, with the exception of Jerseys, which declined about 6s. per cwt. There is little Irish on hand, which sells at very irregular prices. We had a slow sale for bacon in the early part of last week, but towards the close the demand improved, and it closed firm. Lard advanced 2s. per cwt.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, March 3.—A slightly improved demand has been noticeable during the past week for hops of the last growth, and a few parcels offering at tempting prices have been sold. Values are, however, still more or less nominal. Holders are very firm, being confident that consumers must sooner or later come into the market, and a few days active business would immediately restore old rates. Mid and East Kent, 5*l*. 5s., 6*l*. 6s., to 7*l*. 7s.; Weald of Kent, 5*l*. 5s., 5*l*. 12s., to 6*l*. 10s.; Sussex, 5*l*. 5s., 5*l*. 12s. to 6*l*.; Farnham and country, 5*l*. 12s. to 7*l*.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 3.—Sound English potatoes continue firm in value, while foreign potatoes are also in fair request, and command full prices. Best Kent Regents, 180s. to 250s. per ton; Essex and other Regents, 140s. to 200s.; Rocks, 120s. to 140s. per ton.

SEED, Monday, March 3.—Rather more English cloverseed was offering, mostly of a secondary and inferior quality. The few parcels of very choice red commanded very high prices Fine German and French were fully as dear with a moderate sale; but other sorts were disposed of at less money. White samples varied in value, according to quality. The choicest lots of both English and foreign realised as much money. Other sorts were purchased very slowly, at moderate prices Fine Trefoil was unaltered in price, with a limited demand White mustardseed was taken off in small lots on former terms, little passing in brown, for want of supply. Canary-seed realised as much money generally. The demand for foreign qualities was limited. Large hempseed brought previous values steadily. Grass seeds sold generally more freely, at full prices. Foreign tares met a moderate demand at the full currencies of last week.

WOOL, Monday, March 3.—For English wool the inquiry has been only to a moderate extent, and inferior qualities have been irregular in value. At the public sales of colonia descriptions continental buyers are operating with more freedom, and prices are steadier, although still 1d. to 3d. per lb. lower than at the close of the November series.

OIL, Monday, March 3.—For linseed oil the demand has been only to a moderate extent. Rape has been steady. Other oils without change.

TALLOW, Monday, March 3.—P. Y. C. dull, at 44s. 6d for new, and 43s. 9d. for old on the spot. Rough fat remains at 2s. 0½d. per 8lbs.

COAL, Monday, March 3.—No alteration. Hettons South 32s. 3d.; Hartlepool original, 32s., 6d., ditto East 32s. 3d.; Kelloe 31s.; Hartley's 32s. 3d. Ships fresh arrived 26, ships left from last day 4. Ships at sea, 10.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This most celebrated and delicious old mellow spirit is the very cream of Irish Whiskies, in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy. Note the Red Seal, Pink label, and Cork branded "Kinahan's LL" whisky. Wholesale, 20, Great Titchfield-st., Oxford-st., W.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Mistakes Rendered Impossible.—Each box of these admirable Pills is enveloped in a sheet of printed directions so plain and comprehensible, that every one who reads must understand them. Nothing injurious to the human system enters into the composition of these Pills, which never weaken the feeblest frame. They never can be taken at a wrong time, nor can they ever cause mischief in any stage of disease. Public favour has placed beyond dispute their merits in curing most disorders, and has bestowed commensurate success on their inventor. Holloway's Pills cannot be surpassed for their safe and curative powers in all diseases of the stomach, liver, lungs, heart, head, and kidneys; in fact, they regulate every corporeal function.

WHY NOT?

SINCE THERE IS NO RISK,

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OF THE BEST SEWING MACHINE for

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YOU ARE NOT ASKED

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WHY NOT

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SILENT SEWING MACHINE to be sent to you on these conditions,

CARRIAGE PAID?

NO RISK.

THERE IS NO RISK—

BECAUSE THE MACHINE CANNOT GET OUT OF ORDER; but even should it be injured,

NO CHARGE IS MADE for the damage done. Moreover,

THERE IS NO DANGER of destroying the fabric which the Machine sews,

AS HAPPENS SO FREQUENTLY with the more complicated Machines, as well as with

THE RUBBISH SOLD AS CHEAP HAND-MACHINES.

NO EXPENSE.

THERE IS NO EXPENSE—

BECAUSE THERE IS NO CHARGE MADE FOR CARRIAGE:

BECAUSE THERE IS NO CHARGE MADE for the use of the Machine,

WHETHER IT IS KEPT OR RETURNED:

BECAUSE THERE IS NO CHARGE MADE should injury be done to the Machine (as stated above).

NO OBLIGATION.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO BUY THE MACHINE.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO BUY, or

EVEN TO TRY,

ANY OTHER MACHINE IF THE ONE TRIED SHOULD NOT BE APPROVED.

THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO PAY FOR, or

IN ANY WAY RECOGNISE, HAVING HAD THE MONTH'S TRIAL AND USE OF THE MACHINE.

WILLCOX AND GIBBS SEWING MACHINE CO.,

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AGENTS IN ALL TOWNS.

Patronised by the CROWN PRINCESS of PRUSSIA, the SULTAN of TURKEY, and the NAWAB NAZIM of BENGAL.

SEWING MACHINES,
From £2 2s. to £25.
The only Establishments in London where the opportunity is afforded of inspecting and comparing every description of

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It is absurdly claimed for almost every Sewing Machine, whatever description, that it is superior to all others, for all purposes.

SMITH and CO., having no interest in selling any particular Machine, are enabled to recommend impartially the one best suited for the work to be done, and offer this GUARANTEE to their Customers:—Any Machine sold by them may be EXCHANGED after one month's trial, for any other kind, without charge for use.

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A LADIES' SCHOOL (Boarding and Day), which has been long established, TO BE DISPOSED OF. Situated in the South of England, near one of the Public Schools, from which Masters attend. Neighbourhood very healthy, and house good.—Address, A. Z., 28, Southhill Park, Hampstead, N.W.

A YOUNG LADY DESIRES an ENGAGEMENT as COMPANION, or Nursery Governess. She is the daughter of a Dissenting Minister, very domesticated, a good needlewoman, and can be highly recommended.—Apply, A. B., Post-office, Bromley, Kent.

HOME OFFERED to a middle-aged LADY of independent means and amiable disposition, in private family of three. Best part of Richmond, Surrey. One minute from Chapel.—Further particulars from "Independent," Messrs. Deacons' Advertising Agency, Leadenhall-street.

PLANET SHARES *v.* REMUNERATIVE INVESTMENT.—Two superior and commodious eight-roomed Dwelling Houses of good appearance, pleasantly situate at Peckham Rye, London. Let at very low rentals—No. 1 to a highly-respectable tenant of fifteen years' standing, at £32; the other at £30 (worth £35 each). Held for thirty-two years at £7 each ground rent. The above would be exchanged for Fourteen paid-up Planet Shares.—Address, the owner, T., Silverdale Lodge, Lower Tulse Hill, Surrey.

STREATHAM HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

A RECOGNITION SERVICE, on the settlement of Rev. R. A. REDFORD, M.A., LL.B., to the pastorate of this Church, will be held on TUESDAY NEXT, 11th March.

Chair will be taken at Seven o'clock by JOHN KEMP WELCH, Esq.

Revs. T. Binney, Dr. Stoughton, Samuel Martin, Dr. Henry Allon, J. Baldwin Brown, J. G. Rogers, D. Jones, J. Sibree, of Hull; J. B. Figgis, of Brighton, &c., are expected to deliver addresses.

There will be a Social Tea-Meeting before the Service—at Six o'clock, in the Schoolroom at the rear of the Church. Tickets, 6d. each.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION, LONDON.

NEW BUILDING FOR LIBRARY, OFFICES, &c.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST for the proposed New Buildings, Offices, Library, &c., for the above Association is NOW OPEN. The amount already promised is over £11,500, the sum needed, £20,000. Subscriptions may be forwarded to any one of the following gentlemen at the Offices of the Association, 178, Strand, London, and a proper receipt will be forwarded:—

TRUSTEES OF THE FUND.
1. HENRY S. BICKNELL. | 2. JAMES HOPGOOD.
3. ALFRED LAWRENCE.

TIMOTHY KENRICK, President.
ROBT. SPEARS, Secretary.
178, Strand, London.

TO the SHAREHOLDERS of the GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the Report just issued by the Directors to the Shareholders of the above-named Company, their attention has been called to the spiritual wants of the inhabitants of New Swindon, where the Railway Company's Locomotive and Carriage Works are carried on.

The population of this place has rapidly increased, and is now about 8,000. For this number the Church of England provide accommodation for about 800, the Wesleyans 1,200, and the Baptists 600.

There is no Independent place of worship; many of that communion and also Presbyterians worshipping with the Baptists.

The Baptist Chapel was erected in 1848, and in 1858 was enlarged, and again in 1868 considerable additions were made, and a new School room built to meet the increasing necessities of the people, at an outlay of £1,500.

By great exertions and appeals to the people, £800 of this sum has been raised, leaving still £700, which the Church are anxious to remove. There are nearly 500 under instruction in the Sabbath Schools, so that this Appeal is made in the confident hope that all who are interested in the work of religious education will cheerfully respond.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, which will be thankfully acknowledged, can be forwarded to the County of Gloucester Bank, Swindon, to the credit of the Baptist Chapel Building Fund, or to William Brewer Wearing, Treasurer, Swindon, Wilts.

PETITION! PETITION! PETITION!

Friends of Women's Suffrage are earnestly exhorted to aid the cause by collecting signatures for the petitions to be presented to Parliament in favour of Mr. Jacob Bright's Bill. Written petitions ready for signature, and printed forms for the collection of additional signatures, will be supplied on application to Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's-row, Albert-square, Manchester.

TETTENHALL COLLEGE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

HEAD MASTER.

ALEXANDER WAUGH YOUNG, Esq., M.A., Lond. (Gold Medalist in Classics); late Andrews' Scholar, and First Priseman in Higher Senior Mathematics, of University College, London; Fellow of University College, London.

SECOND MASTER.

JAMES SHAW, Esq., Peel Exhibitioner, Queen's University, Ireland; and First of First Class in Classical Honours at the First B.A. Examination, London University.

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STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES' GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.

HALF-TERM will BEGIN THURSDAY, March 6.

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VICE-MASTER—

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ASSISTANT MASTERS—

A. H. SCOTT WHITE, Esq., B.A., Priseman in Anglo-Saxon and Early English of Univ. Coll., London.
JAMES H. MURRAY, Esq., F.E.I.S., Member of the Council of the Philological Society, one of the Editors of the Publications of the Early English Text Society, Author of "The Dialect of the Southern Counties of Scotland," &c., &c.
JAMES NETTLESHIP, Esq., B.A., Scholar and Priseman of Christ's Coll., Camb.; 2nd Class Classical Tripos, 1866.

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For Prospectuses and further information, apply to the Head Master, at the School, or to the Secretary, the Rev. R. H. MARTEN, B.A., Lee, S.E.

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ESTABLISHMENT FOR YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by Mrs. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

G. SULLY'S PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL BOARDING HOUSE and FAMILY HOTEL, 23, EUSTON-road, KING'S CROSS (Corner of Belgrave-street), LONDON. Opposite the Midland and Great Northern, and close to the London and North-Western Termini; also the King's Cross Station of the Metropolitan Railway. Beds from 1s. 6d. Breakfast or Tea 1s. 3d. Attendance 9d. Trains and omnibuses to all parts of the City continually.

EXTRACT FROM VISITORS' BOOK.

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"Every comfort and attention; very homely."
"A first-class home at cheap rates."

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See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—J. ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits, I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I find when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frome.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel *par excellence*."—J. K. KARCHER, Toronto, C.W.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.—Great Programme for Christmas.—1. The History of a PLUM PUDDING, with striking experiments by Professor Gardner. 2. A Christmas Tale; or, HOW JANE CONQUEST RANG the BELL; an Illustrated poem, with remarkable effects. 3. The "ZOO" AT THE "POLY," an anecdotal discourse about the Zoological Gardens, by Mr. J. L. King, with Photographs by Mr. York. 4. The THREE ROSES; or, the Invisible Prince in a new light: a fairy tale, musically narrated by Mr. George Buckland, assisted by Miss Alice Barth, Miss Pulham, and Miss Lilie Bartlett. 5. The WHITE LADY OF AVENEL, the new and beautiful Ghost Illusion. 6. New CHARACTER ENTERTAINMENT, by Mr. Percy Vere. 7. The wonderful SWIMMING FEATS of Marquis Bibbero in the Great Tank. 8. The MAGIC TUB, full of Toys, to be distributed on specified occasions, to good Children. Many other Entertainments. Open daily, at 12 and 7. Admission, 1s.

THE NEWPORT ABERCARN BLACK VEIN STEAM COAL COMPANY (Limited).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on MONDAY the 10th for London, and TUESDAY the 11th for country applications. By order of the Board,

J. D. SHAKESPEAR, Secretary.

1 and 2, Mansion House Buildings, E.C.,
5th March, 1873.

THE NEWPORT ABERCARN BLACK VEIN STEAM COAL COMPANY (Limited).

Incorporated under the Joint-Stock Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867.

Capital £150,000, in 15,000 Shares of £10 each,

£1 payable on Application, and £1 on Allotment: £1 on the 1st of August, 1873; and the Balance, as required, in Calls not exceeding £1 every Six Months. The total amount of £10 per Share may, however, be paid in full on application, and interest will be allowed on the payments in excess of Calls due at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

DIRECTORS.

HENRY CECIL RAIKES, Esq., M.P., Llwynegrin Hall, Flintshire, and 95, Onslow-square, London.
John Holman, Esq., Steam-ship Owner, London, Exeter, and Topsham.
John T. Bowden, Esq., 34, Leadenhall-street, and Kennebec House, Beckenham, Kent.
John Cory, Esq. (Cory Brothers and Co., Colliery Proprietors), Cardiff and London.
Thomas Beynon, Esq., J.P. (T. Beynon and Co., Colliery Proprietors), Newport, Mon.

BANKERS.

Imperial Bank, Lothbury, London.
West of England and South Wales District Bank, Newport, Mon.

Solicitors: Messrs. Keighley and Gething, 7, Ironmonger-lane, London; C. R. Lyne, Esq, Bank Chambers, Newport, Mon.
Auditors: Messrs. Johnstone, Cooper, Wintle, and Evans, 3, Coleman-street Buildings, Moorgate-street, London.
Secretary: J. D. Shakespear, Esq.
Offices: 1 and 2, Mansion House Buildings, Queen Victoria-street, London.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purposes of acquiring and working a very valuable leasehold property known as the Celynen Estate, Abercarn, Monmouthshire.

The property is one of the most extensive mineral takings in South Wales, being about 1,200 acres in extent, and additional properties of several hundred acres are commanded by the estate, and may be secured if desired.

The property has been reported upon most favourably by William Adams, Esq., of Cardiff, and Jacob Higson, Esq., of Manchester, both eminent mining engineers, and thoroughly acquainted with the Monmouthshire and South Wales coalfields.

An important feature in connection with the property is its proximity to the port of shipment, the distance to Newport, with its commodious docks and river, and extensive new Alexandra Docks, expected to be opened this year, being only ten miles. The cost of conveying the Coal from the pit's mouth to the port will be only 9d. per ton; while the Tredegar, Ebbw Vale, Merthyr, and Aberdare Collieries, owing to the additional distance, pay from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per ton. There will, therefore, be an unquestionable saving of 9d. per ton alone in the cost of conveying the Coal to market, as compared with the majority of other Welsh Collieries, and when the reduced cost of waggon hire is added this saving will reach fully 1s. per ton. Upon an output of 260,000 tons per annum, this is equal to a profit of £13,000 a-year, or over 8½ per cent. per annum on the total capital of the Company. Cardiff is also equally accessible, the distance to that port being less than the mileage from several of the Merthyr and Aberdare Collieries.

There is as well the most complete access and direct railway communication to Swansea, Birkenhead, Liverpool, London, Southampton, &c.

With an output of 1,000 tons per day, as estimated by the engineers (which will be a moderate quantity for a colliery of this magnitude), and allowing a minimum profit of only 2s. per ton, this will leave a net profit, calculating the year at 260 colliery working days, of £26,000, or 26 per cent. on the capital employed. This estimate of profit is based upon the lowest price that has ever prevailed for Black Vein Steam Coal, and it consequently may be taken as the minimum profit that will be realised under the most adverse circumstances.

But assuming present prices are maintained, a net profit of 12s. per ton will be realised, which will amount to £156,000 per annum. This calculation is quite irrespective of the profits on the manufacture of Coke made from the small Coal, and which now sells at 35s. per ton.

The Vendors have agreed to transfer all their rights and interests in this property for 2,000 fully paid-up Shares; and they have further agreed to hold the whole of the Shares for a period of five years. The vendors and their friends also subscribe over £40,000 of the capital required.

The only Agreements entered into on behalf of the Company are—an Agreement dated the 17th day of February, 1873, and made between John Cory, Richard Cory the younger, and Thomas Beynon of the one part, and Frederick Henry Hogan, on behalf of the Company, of the other part; an Agreement dated the 12th day of February, 1873, and made between the said Frederick Henry Hogan, on behalf of the Company, of the one part, and the said Thomas Beynon and Theophilus John Beynon, trading under the style or firm of "T. Beynon and Co.," of the other part; an Agreement dated the 18th day of February, 1873, and made between the said Frederick Henry Hogan, on behalf of the Company, of the one part, and Henry Russell Evans of the other part. The Agreements and Engineers' Report, together with copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors of the Company.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained of the Bankers, the Solicitors, or of Sir Robert Carden and Co., Brokers, 2, Royal Exchange-buildings, of whom every information may be obtained. All Subscriptions must be paid in to the Bankers.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can also be obtained of Mr. H. Russell Evans, stockbroker, 12, Great Dock-street, Newport, Mon.; and at the Offices of the "South Wales Evening Telegram," Newport, Mon.

CHOICE FLOWER SEEDS FOR SPRING, 1873.—Twelve beautiful varieties for Open Garden, &c., including double German Aster, and Ten-Week Stocks, Sweet Peas, Mignonette, and Scarlet Linum. With full cultural directions and descriptive labels, post free, 14 Penny Stamps. Twenty-five and Fifty Varieties, 26 and 50 stamps.
DANIELS BROTHERS, Seed Growers, Norwich.

MORTGAGE DEBENTURE and GOVERNMENT SECURITIES TRUST (Limited). Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867.

Capital, £1,000,000 in 50,000 Shares of £20 each.

Messrs. ROBARTS, LUBBOCK, and Co. will receive SUBSCRIPTIONS on behalf of the above Trust, for a First Issue of 10,000 shares for £200,000. Share certificates with coupons attached will be issued, entitling the holder to interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, irrespective of dividends earned by the working of the Company. The coupons will be payable half-yearly, and the first coupon will be payable on the 15th January next.

TRUSTEES FOR THE MORTGAGE DEBENTURE HOLDERS.
Sir Louis Mallet, C.B. | Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., M.P.
R. Ruthven Pym, Esq.

TRUSTEES FOR THE COMPANY.
Algernon Borthwick, Esq. | Sir William Grey, K.S.C.I.
William Cornwallis Cartwright, Esq., M.P. | Robert Hallett Holt, Esq.
James William Muttlebury, Esq.

Bankers—Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, and Co., 15, Lombard-street, E.C.
Solicitor—J. T. Simpson, Esq., 62, Moorgate-street, E.C.
Brokers—Messrs. J. and A. Scrimgeour, 18, Old Broad-street, E.C.
Auditors—Messrs. Stewart and Lambe, public accountants, 30, Moorgate-street.
Secretary (pro tem.)—J. Dunn, Esq.
Temporary Offices—No. 33, Palmerston-buildings, Broad-street, E.C.

This Trust, besides having the object, common to undertakings of a similar character, of investing capital in foreign and colonial Government securities, has been created for the further purpose of providing, by mortgage of like securities, a secure investment for money, for stated periods, at a higher rate of interest than can be obtained on mortgage of real estate, and of giving to the shareholders the profits to accrue from the loan capital so raised.

It is proposed,—

First, to invest the paid-up share capital in carefully-selected foreign and colonial government and guaranteed securities, more particularly specified in the Memorandum of Association, but so that not more than one-tenth of all the moneys of the Company shall be invested at any one time in any one stock or security.

Secondly, to deposit securities of sufficient value in the names of trustees, specially appointed for that purpose, as a security for the repayment of money to be raised on mortgage.

The money raised on mortgage will be invested in the same manner as the share capital, and securities equal in value to the amount of money so raised will, together with a margin of at least 10 per cent., be specially hypothecated to the mortgage debentures in the names of the trustees for the mortgage debenture holders, in an account to be called the Mortgage Fund.

No fresh mortgage debenture will be issued unless, besides the 10 per cent. margin appropriated to the Mortgage Fund, there be a further margin unappropriated to such fund of not less than 15 per cent. of the amount of the current mortgage debentures.

The trustees for the mortgage debenture holders will be distinct from the trustees for the Company; and it will be their duty, at intervals not exceeding three months, to inspect the securities deposited in their names, to ascertain the market value thereof, and to certify the result; and if the value should have fallen, the Company will be bound to make it up immediately to the prescribed standard.

The mortgage debentures will rank pari passu, and will be a first charge on the Mortgage Fund. They will be issued for fixed periods or otherwise, payable to the lender by name, or to his registered assigns, or at his option to bearer, and will have coupons attached for the half-yearly payments of interest.

The security of the debenture holders will be direct, and quite as good as that afforded by mortgages of real estate, and more easily available, and the mortgage debentures being secured not only on the general credit of the Company, but as a primary charge on the Mortgage Fund, will necessarily rank higher than debentures of other companies which are not secured by the specific hypothecation of securities.

The holders of the mortgage debentures will have the advantage over mortgagees of real estate that their title will be indefeasible, their mortgages transferable as easily as stock, their interest paid on the day it becomes due, and their security practically incapable of depreciation by any change in the market.

The Company is also empowered by the Memorandum and Articles of Association to sell annuities for lives or for fixed periods, to be charged on the Mortgage fund, and to be secured by the hypothecation of securities of the value of the annuities for the time being payable, with a margin of at least 10 per cent.

The success of the Foreign and Colonial Government Trust, formed in 1868, is well known. Its original certificates for £100, issued at £85, now stand at £24 premium.

The interest, at 6 per cent., for which coupons will be attached to the share certificates of this Trust, will represent a part only of the income of the Company. The other principal sources of income will be—

1st. The surplus income of the paid-up share capital after payment of the 6 per cent. interest;

2ndly. The surplus income of the mortgage debenture capital after payment of the interest on debentures;

3rdly. The profit on the drawings at par, of securities purchased below par.

And from the nature of the scheme, it is obvious that in proportion as the undertaking is developed, there will be a considerable amount, increasing year by year, available for dividend derived from the last two sources.

All dividends, capital funds, and other moneys will be receivable by the bankers of the Company.

Payments are to be made as follows:—

On application	£1
On allotment	4
On the 15th May	5
On the 15th July	5
On the 15th September	5
	£20

Shareholders may pay up their shares in full on allotment, and will be allowed discount at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

In the event of no allotment being made, the deposits will be returned without deduction, and where the shares allotted are less than the number applied for, the surplus deposits will be credited to the allottee.

The payment of all expenses, incidental to the formation and bringing out of the Company, is provided for by Clause 111 of the Articles of Association, and such expenses are estimated not to exceed one per cent. on the nominal capital.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be seen at the temporary offices of the Company, 33, Palmerston Buildings, and prospectuses, with printed forms of application for shares, may be obtained at the same offices, or of the solicitor, or brokers, or of the bankers of the Company, to whom all subscriptions must be paid.

Form of Application for Shares.

To the Trustees for the Mortgage Debenture and Government Securities Trust (Limited).

Gentlemen,—Having paid to Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock, and Co. £ , I request you to allot me shares in the above Trust, and I hereby agree to accept such shares, or any less number you may allot me, and to make the remaining payments thereon, in accordance with the prospectus issued by you.

Name in full .....
Profession or Description .....
Residence in full .....
Usual Signature .....
Date .....

(Addition, to be signed by applicant desiring to pay up in full on allotment.)

I desire to pay up my subscription in full on allotment.

.....

THE LONDON AND GENERAL PERMANENT LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

Shares, £40. Monthly Subscription, 5s. Entrance Fee, 1s. per Share.

337, STRAND, W.C.

TRUSTEES.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield.
Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.
The Hon. H. F. Cowper, M.P.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS.

Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

Large or small sums received on deposit, repayable at short notice. Shares may be taken at any time—no back payments.

Money ready to be advanced on Freehold or Leasehold Security.

W. R SELWAY Managing Director.

Mutual Assurance without Mutual Liability.
Policies Payable in Lifetime.
Non-Forfeiture Policies by Limited Payments.
Settlement Policies.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL:—A QUARTER OF A MILLION.

OFFICES:—4, QUEEN STREET PLACE, LONDON, E.C.

DIRECTORS.

George Thomas Dale, Esq., Bayswater.
William Sutton Gover, Esq., 4, Queen-street-place, City.
John Middleton Hare, Esq., Forest Hill.
Fountain John Hartley, Esq., Addle-street, City.
William George Lemon, Esq., Lincoln's Inn.
Henry Potter Olney, Esq., Fountain-court, Aldermanbury, City.
William Smith, Esq., Upper Norwood.
Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., LL.D., Hampstead.

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND ACTUARY.

William Sutton Gover, Esq., F.S.S., F.I.A.

SUB-MANAGER.

John Wilkinson Fairey, Esq.

REPORT.

The 17th year has been one of satisfactory progress and solid prosperity.

The new business of the year consisted of 1,934 policies, assuring £320,319, producing a new annual income of £9,820.

The mortality of the year comprised 172 deaths, on which the amount paid, together with bonuses, was £28,487 18s. 1d.

There were also 20 claims for matured policies, on which the amount paid, together with the bonuses, was £2,155 8s. 4d.

The amount paid in the year for the surrender of policies was £1,777.

The amount laid by in the year, £36,307.

The business in force is 17,009 policies, assuring £2,930,210, the annual premium income thereon being £93,998.

The amount paid for death claims and bonuses in seventeen years, under 1,173 policies, is £187,558.

The accumulated fund is now increased to £273,073.

On the foregoing statistics it may be observed that the amount and quality of the new assurances in a year of general depression in life assurance business are satisfactory, and that the low rate of mortality is an evidence of the cautious selection and high class of the lives assured.

That the amount laid by is greater than in any former year.

That few offices at the same age have had so large a business in force.

That the distribution of nearly £190,000 under the head of death claims and bonuses, has afforded a practical illustration of the benefits of life assurance in every part of the country.

The accumulated fund is ample in amount for the liabilities of the Company.

The securities of the Company have been carefully examined by the auditors.

It remains for the large body of Policyholders to introduce their friends and neighbours as insurers during the current year.

May, 1872.

MR. COOKE BAINES, SURVEYOR and VALUER, PREPARES and NEGOTIATES COMPENSATION CLAIMS for Property Compulsorily taken for Railways and other Improvements, and also Values property for every purpose.—26, Finsbury-place, Moorgate-street, E.C.

S. YOUNG'S HALF-GUINEA TROUSERS, warranted all wool and properly shrunk.
Samples, Directions for Self-Measure, Illustrated Designs, and Price Lists Free by Post.
S. YOUNG, 135 and 136, High Holborn, London.

S. YOUNG'S NEW SPRING GOODS, consisting of the choicest patterns and designs of the most eminent manufacturers, the new stripes, checks, and plaid trouserings, blue worsted diagonals and elastic coatings, fancy vestings, &c. Samples and designs post free.
S. YOUNG, 135 and 136, High Holborn, London.

HOOPING COUGH.—ROCHE'S HERBAL EMBROCATION is now recommended by many of the most eminent of the Faculty as the only known safe and perfect cure, without restriction of diet or use of medicine. Sold by most Chemists in bottles, at 4s. each. Wholesale Agent, Edwards, 38, Old Change (formerly of 67, St. Paul's), London.

STATIONERY, PRINTING, ACCOUNT BOOKS, and every requisite for the Counting-house. Qualities and prices will compare advantageously with any house in the trade. The Forms and Account Books required under "The Companies' Acts, 1862 and 1867," kept in stock. Share Certificates Engraved and Printed. Official Seals Designed and Executed.—ASH and FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City, E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London-bridge, S.E.

KELLY'S ORGAN HARMONIUMS, as manufactured for Her Majesty, are the only instruments of English manufacture that received any award at the Paris and Dublin Exhibitions. A liberal allowance to the clergy.—11, Charles-street, Berners-street. Price lists free. Secondhand Pianos for sale.

HARMONIUMS, by GILBERT L. BAUER. Improved ENGLISH MANUFACTURE, suitable for CHURCH AND CHAPEL SERVICES, Concert Rooms, Private Families, &c., &c. Price Lists on application, at the Cumberland Works, 49, Tottenham-street, London, W.

MOSCOW POLYTECHNIC EXHIBITION, 1872. LYONS EXHIBITION, 1872. (GOLD MEDALS.)

First Prizes awarded to LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT of MEAT for best quality.

CAUTION.—None genuine without Baron Liebig's, the Inventor's, signature. Ask for Liebig Company's Extract.

A FACT.—ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR-COLOUR WASH will in two days cause grey hair or whiskers to become their original colour. This is guaranteed by Alex. Ross. It is merely necessary to damp the hair with it. Price 10s. 6d.; sent for stamps.—248, High Holborn, London.

SPANISH FLY is the acting ingredient in Alex. Ross's CANTHARIDES OIL. It is a sure restorer of Hair and a producer of Whiskers. The effect is speedy. It is patronised by Royalty. The price is 3s. 6d.; sent for stamps.

ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR CURLING FLUID.—It curls immediately straight and ungovernable Hair. It is of no consequence how straight or ungovernable the hair is when it is used. Sold at 3s. 6d.; sent for 54 stamps.

ALEX. ROSS'S GREAT HAIR RESTORER.—It restores Grey Hair to its original colour in a few days. It increases growth and removes dandrift. Sold in large bottles at 3s. 6d.; sent for stamps or P. O. Order.—A ROSS, 248, High Holborn, London.

DINNEFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.

The best remedy for

ACIDITY OF THE STOMACH,

HEARTBURN, HEADACHE, GOUT, and INDIGESTION; and the best mild aperient for delicate constitutions, especially adapted for LADIES, CHILDREN, and INFANTS.

DINNEFORD AND CO.,

172, New Bond-street, London, and of all Chemists.

DR. ROBERTS'S OINTMENT, called the POOR MAN'S FRIEND, is confidently recommended to the public as an unfailing remedy for wounds of every description, and a certain cure for Ulcerated Sore Legs, if of twenty years' standing, Cuts, Burns, Scalds, Bruises, Chilblains, Ulcers, Scorbutic Eruptions, Pimples in the Face, Weak and Inflamed Eyes, Piles and Fistula, Gangrene, and is a specific for those Eruptions which sometimes follow Vaccination. Sold in Pots 13½d., 2s. 9d., 11s., and 22s. each.

DR. ROBERTS'S PILULÆ ANTISCROPHULÆ, or ALTERATIVE PILLS, proved by sixty years' experience an invaluable remedy for that distressing complaint called Scrofula, Glandular Swellings, particularly those of the neck, &c. They are one of the best alteratives ever compounded for purifying the blood and assisting Nature in all her operations. They are efficacious also in Rheumatism, and form a mild and superior Family Aperient that may be taken at all times without confinement or change of diet. Sold in Boxes at 13½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., and 22s. each.

Sold by the Proprietors, BEACH and BARNICOTT, at their Dispensary, BRIDPORT, and by all respectable Medicine Vendors.

IMPERFECT DIGESTION AND ASSIMILATION.

SAVORY & MOORE'S PANCREATIC EMULSION and PANCREATINE are the most potent remedial agents. They are the only remedies yet known for effecting the digestion of Cod Liver Oil and preventing nausea, while they also efficiently supply the place of the oil when rejected by the stomach. These facts are now attested by the published records of numerous medical men, extracts from which accompany each bottle. Price from 2s. to 21s.

SAVORY & MOORE, 143, New Bond-street, London, and all Chemists.

NOTE.—Name and trade mark on each bottle.

LIVER PILLS WITHOUT MERCURY.—Only two Medicines really act upon the Liver; one is Mercury or Blue Pill, the other, Dandelion. Thousands of constitutions have been destroyed by Mercury, Blue Pill, or Calomel. The only safe remedy is

DR. KING'S DANDELION and QUININE LIVER PILLS,

which act very gently on the liver, giving immediate relief in all cases of bile, indigestion, sick headache, loss of appetite, giddiness, spasms, heartburn, flatulency, nervousness, gout, and all disorders of the stomach and bowels.—Manufactured by J. Rorke, 47, Mortimer-street, London, W., and sold all over the world by every respectable Chemist and Medicine Vender, in boxes, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each.

KAYE'S WORSDELL'S PILLS.—Indulgence of the appetite is often followed by dyspepsia, indigestion, headache, and other stomach complaints. The prompt use of KAYE'S WORSDELL'S PILLS will give immediate relief, and prove a most efficacious restorative. Sold by all Chemists and other Dealers in Patent Medicine, at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per box.

OROIDE GOLD SNAKE RINGS, three folds round finger, 3s. 6d.; Head set with Alaska Diamonds, 5s.; Gem Rings, 1s. 6d.; Lockets, 2s.; Alberts, 3s. 6d. and 5s.; Long Chains, 5s. 6d. and 7s. 6d.; Sleeve Links, 2s.; Shirt Studs, 1s.; Solitaires, 1s. Circulars free.

W. HOLT, 35, All Saints'-road, Westbourne-park, London.

MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE.

MARBLE, GRANITE, and STONE TOMBS, TABLETS, &c.

Drawings and Estimates free on application.

Established in year 1820.

GAFFIN AND CO.,

63, QUADRANT, REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.

JOHN GOSNELL & CO.'S

"CHERRY TOOTH PASTE"

Greatly excels all other preparations for the Teeth.

"AGUA AMARELLA"

Restores the Human Hair to its pristine hue, no matter at what age.

"TOILET and NURSERY POWDER"

Beautifully perfumed and guaranteed pure.

ASK for JOHN GOSNELL and CO.'S, and see that you have none other than their *genuine* Articles.

Sold by all respectable CHEMISTS and PERFUMERS.

Wholesale, Angel-passage, 93, Upper Thames-street, London.

LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE.

THE "WORCESTERSHIRE,"

Pronounced by Connoisseurs, "The only Good Sauce,"

Improves the appetite, and aids digestion.

Unrivalled for piquancy and flavour.

ASK FOR LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS,

and see the Names of LEA & PERRINS on all bottles and labels.

Agents—CROSSE and BLACKWELL, London, and sold by all Dealers in Sauces throughout the World.

PATE AU DIABLE,

FOR MAKING DEVILS OF BISCUITS, LEGS OF POULTRY, MEATS, &c.

The Original is Manufactured only by

JOHN BURGESS AND SON,

107, STRAND, LONDON.

To be obtained of all Grocers and Oilmen.

HEAL ALL!

Charles Dickens in "Household Words" said of the matron of "Gable College"—

"She believed greatly in 'DREDGE'S HEAL ALL,' and so did those boys who were most given to breaking their shins or elbows."

Gives instant relief in all cases of Rheumatism, Lumbago, Chilblains, &c.

Prepared only by BARCLAY and SONS, 95, Farringdon-street, London, and sold by all Chemists and Druggists in bottles at 1s. 1½d. each.

"FOR the BLOOD is the LIFE."—See Deuteronomy, chap. xii., verse 23.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE,

The GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER and RESTORER,

For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities, cannot be too highly recommended.

For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and sores of all kinds, it is a never-failing and permanent cure.

It Cures Old Sores,
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck,
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs,
Cures Blackheads, or Pimples on the Face,
Cures Scurvy Sores,
Cures Cancerous Ulcers,
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases,
Cures Glandular Swellings,
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter,
From whatever cause arising.

As this Mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.

Thousands of Testimonials from all parts.

Sold in bottles, 2s. 3d. each, and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long-standing cases—BY ALL CHEMISTS AND PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS throughout the United Kingdom and the world, or sent to any address on receipt of 27 or 132 stamps by

F. J. CLARKE, Chemist, High-street, Lincoln.

Wholesale—All Patent Medicine Houses.

THE BLOOD PURIFIER.

NO ONE SHOULD BE WITHOUT THE BLOOD PURIFIER.—Old Dr. Jacob Townsend's Sarsaparilla is the great purifier of the blood, it effects the most salutary changes in disease; cures scrofula, scorbutic disorders, chronic sore eyes, rheumatism, piles, liver complaints, erysipelas, all blotches and eruptions of the skin, it removes every impurity of the blood, and all humours and morbid collections of the body, in short, it acts like a charm. In bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 0d., 4s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 1 .s. 0d. Pills and Ointment, each in boxes, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., by post for 15, 36, and 60 stamps. Sold by all Druggists. Chief Depôt, 131, Fleet-street, London. Get the red and blue wrapper with the old Dr.'s head in the centre.

CHARTA PERFECTA.—This new and beautiful note-paper is the most perfect ever made.

"Is pleasant to the eye; delightful to write upon."—Observer.

"Never varies, is free from all impediments to rapid writing."—Daily News.

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